恋をしましょう

Nishida Higashi presents

西田 東

BAMBOO COMICS
TAKE SHOBO

BAMBOO COMICS

恋をしましょう

REIJIN

西田 東

竹書房

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収録作品
恋をしましょう
恋を胸じて
DIRT
あの頃に胸れない
胸いっぱいの
連れていってくれ
メモリアル・デー

Carefree and flippant Management Consultant Kobayashi never compromises when it comes to business, yet is eager to hook up with any available man within reach. His services are called upon by Seibu General Insurance in preparation for their imminent takeover by rival firm Fire Central.

In the process of carefully carrying out his duties, Kobayashi is always on the lookout for a suitable male target as he visits the offices of his clients. But this time his heart is won over by a most unlikely man who falls short of his usual standards: dour middle-aged manager, Chief Araki.

Although privately he is confused about his feelings, Kobayashi tackles the merger project with impressive zeal while working long hours day after day as Araki's work partner.

Then finally, when the whole project is finished and their work objectives achieved, Kobayashi is unable to find Araki at his desk...

Men who possess a passion that breaks through the composure of their ordinary demeanor... Here are the one-of-a-kind flesh and blood characters brought to life by unique storyteller Nishida Higashi in the long-awaited third collection of tales published in Reijin Selection.

cover design CHIAKI-K

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Koi wo Shimashou

恋をしましょう

Let's Make Love

恋をしましょう

BUSINESS SOLDIER IN LOVE
COLOR 36 PAGES

人生は一度きり……
だけど大事なことは
ひとつじゃない。

We only live once...
but it's no big deal.

NISHIDA HIGASHI PRESENTS
西田 東

最新セレクション「寄う男」「目を閉じないで」
大好評NOW ON SALE!!

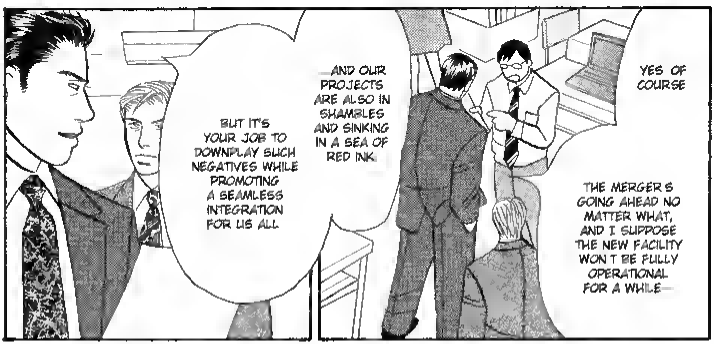
HERE'S MY LATEST HUNTING GROUND:
SEIRU GENERAL INSURANCE GROUP
ALTHOUGH IN ACTUAL FACT THE COMPANY'S NAME WILL SOON CEASE TO EXIST FOLLOWING A CORPORATE MERGER.
—AND DESPITE BEING LABELED AS A MERGER, IN REALITY SEIRU IS BEING SWALLOWED UP BY THE RIVAL FIRM, FIRE CENTRAL.

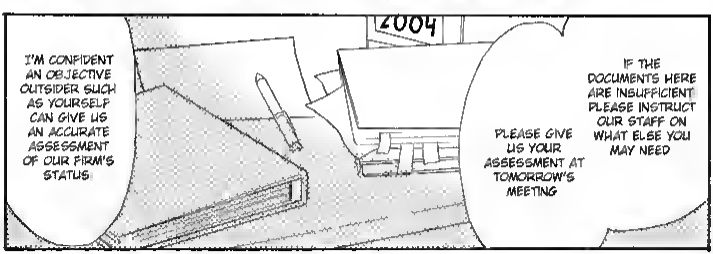
ALL RIGHT! A HIT! AN HONEST DOWN-TO-EARTH GUY IN HIS THIRTIES!
gleam
ARE YOU KOBAYASHI-SAN OF K.S. PLANNING?
PLEASE EXCUSE ME! I WAS GOING TO COME OUT AND SHOW YOU AROUND.
WOULD YOU BE KOBAYASHI-SAN?
ding
WELL SUCH ISSUES AREN'T THAT IMPORTANT TO ME WHAT MATTERS IS WHETHER OR NOT THIS FIRM HAS MEN WHO MEET MY STANDARDS
HEY, HANG ON! HOW ABOUT INTRODUCING YOURSELF?
IN THAT CASE, IT'S BEST IF YOU CONTINUE MAKING YOUR WAY TO OUR MANAGER'S OFFICE ON YOUR OWN, RIGHT?
CATCH YOU LATER!
NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL
HOW IMPRESSIVE!
NOT A PROBLEM, SINCE I'M ABLE TO GET A HANDLE ON MANY ASPECTS OF A CLIENT'S SITUATION BY MAKING MY OWN WAY UP TO THE CLIENT'S OFFICE ON FOOT
AS A MATTER OF FACT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING OUR NEW MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

EXECUTIVE SUITE
JUST LIKE THIS FIRM, THE WHOLE INSURANCE SECTOR IS EXPERIENCING INCREASINGLY TOUGH TIMES
HOWEVER, WE HAVEN'T GIVEN MUCH CONSIDERATION AS TO HOW WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THE MERGER
IT'S NOT JUST OUR INDUSTRY THAT'S IN A SLUMP IN FACT A JUMPSTART TO STIMULATE THE ENTIRE JAPANESE ECONOMY IS WHAT—
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE...
—ON YOUR MIND, KOBAYASHI-SAN?

AT HIS AGE, HE'S A DEFINITE OUT!
HERE I'VE HIT A FOUL BALL... OR MADE A BIG ERROR!!
IN THAT CASE, KOBAYASHI-SAN, LET'S PLEASE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS
NO... NOT REALLY
SINCE WE HAVE NO TIME FOR IDLE CHAT, I'LL ESCORT YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE ROOM, WHERE WE'LL CONDUCT OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THE MERGER
I'M LISTED AS THE PERSON IN CHARGE...
clatter
NO, NONE AT ALL
I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT I WAS WONDERING IF WE'RE THE SAME AGE...
DOES THIS HAVE ANY RELEVANCE TO OUR CURRENT WORK?
PEERS?
ERR... CHIEF ARAKI, I GUESS WE'RE PEERS, AREN'T WE?
...BUT ACTUALLY, IT LOOKS AS IF WE'LL BE ACTING UNDER THE ORDERS OF FIRE CENTRAL

CHIEF ARAKI, AFTER THE MERGER YOU'LL REMAIN IN YOUR PRESENT POST DURING THE TRANSITION PHASE, WON'T YOU?
AFTER THE MERGER, THEY'LL HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ABILITIES THEY MUST DO SO IF THEY'RE TO KEEP THEIR JOBS
WE MUST DO OUR BEST ALL THE SAME
THERE ARE MANY SKILLED WORKERS IN THIS FIRM TOO
Floor
GENER
Manager Conference Room


BUT IT'S YOUR JOB TO DOWNPLAY SUCH NEGATIVES WHILE PROMOTING A SEAMLESS INTEGRATION FOR US ALL
...AND OUR PROJECTS ARE ALSO IN SHAMBLES AND SINKING IN A SEA OF RED INK
YES OF COURSE
THE MERGER'S GOING AHEAD NO MATTER WHAT, AND I SUPPOSE THE NEW FACILITY WON'T BE FULLY OPERATIONAL FOR A WHILE—


2004
I'M CONFIDENT AN OBJECTIVE OUTSIDER SUCH AS YOURSELF CAN GIVE US AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF OUR FIRM'S STATUS
PLEASE GIVE US YOUR ASSESSMENT AT TOMORROW'S MEETING
IF THE DOCUMENTS HERE ARE INSUFFICIENT PLEASE INSTRUCT OUR STAFF ON WHAT ELSE YOU MAY NEED

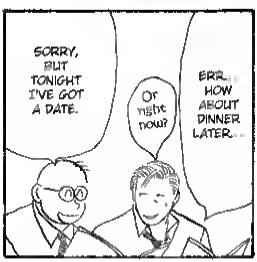
KOBAYASHI-SAN!
I CAN HARDLY WAIT.
AND AT OUR AGE TOO, RIGHT HERE ON THIS VERY SPOT!
WE'RE GIVING BIRTH TO A BRAND NEW COMPANY!

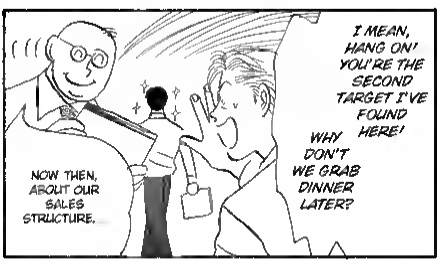
IT WAS CHIEF ARAKI WHO GOT THE BALL ROLLING.
THAT'S RIGHT.

THANKS TO OUR CHIEF TAKING THE INITIATIVE THE MERGER TERMS WERE RATHER FAVORABLE FOR US CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF OUR FIRM.
APPARENTLY, THOSE MOST FAMILIAR WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS SENSED THE LOOMING CRISIS
FROM THE BEGINNING, THE CHIEF WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE MERGER,
BECAUSE AS THE OPERATIONS MANAGER, HE WAS THE MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH THE WORKPLACE.
SO HE DID IT TO KEEP THE COMPANY AFLOAT.

WELL THEN, EXCUSE ME, BUT I HAVE TO GO...
SURE THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

AH DO YOU UNDERSTAND OUR SYSTEM AFTER MY EXPLANATION JUST NOW?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
HE'S A MAN WHO LIVES FOR THE COMPANY. ISN'T HE?
YEAH, SANKYUU.


SORRY, BUT TONIGHT I'VE GOT A DATE.
Or right now?
BRR... HOW ABOUT DINNER LATER...


I MEAN, HANG ON! YOU'RE THE SECOND TARGET I'VE FOUND HERE!
WHY DON'T WE GRAB DINNER LATER?
NOW THEN, ABOUT OUR SALES STRUCTURE...

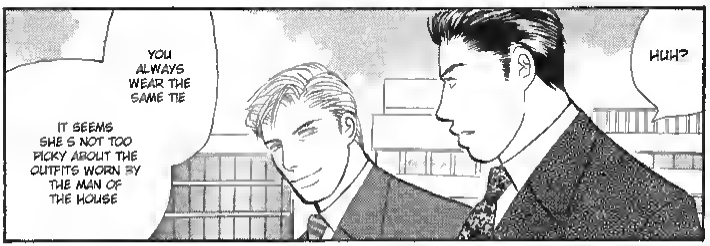
IN OTHER WORDS,
THE BEST OPTION WOULD BE TO UTILIZE THIS DEPARTMENT AS A KEY COMPONENT OF FIRE CENTRAL'S STRONG SALES NETWORK.
CHIEF ARAKI?
DO YOU THINK IT'S FEASIBLE, CHIEF ARAKI?
IT'S POSSIBLE AS LONG AS WE CAN TAP INTO THE HIGHLY VALUED AA SYSTEM SEIGU GENERAL INSURANCE IS RENOWNED FOR WITHIN THE INDUSTRY.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR I HAVE YOUR SUPPORT.
UH... YEAH!
OF COURSE

I'M DOING NOTHING BUT WORK THIS TIME AROUND! WHAT AM I WORKING SO HARD FOR?
AS A MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, THE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES TO PICK UP GUYS MAKES THIS JOB THE BEST.
BUT IF I DON'T FIND SOME FUN HERE SOON I'LL...
ALL RIGHT! I'LL SET MY SIGHTS ON THEM!
STAFF CAFETERIA
COFFEE
CHIEF ARAKI?
HAVE YOU HAD LUNCH ALREADY?
Poke Poke
AH... KOBAYASHI-SAN?
NO, I WAS GOING TO EAT LATER... HUH?
pop
turn
turn
IF YOU DON'T MIND, LET'S EAT OUT TOGETHER.

DON'T YOU THINK
IT LOOKS OFFENSIVE
TO BE EATING IN A PUBLIC SPACE?
EVERYONE ELSE IS EATING
BUT AT OUR AGE, WE SHOULD BE.
I'LL EAT WHAT I LIKE WHERE I LIKE EVEN WHEN I'M FIFTY OR SIXTY
I'LL ACT AS SMART AND REFINED AS BEFITS A MAN MY AGE
LIKE THIS
munch
ARE YOU OFFENDED AT THE SIGHT OF ME?
chew
chew
NO
heh

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU, KOBAYASHI-SAN I EXPECTED YOU TO BE MORE SHREWD AND CUNNING
YOUR DIRECT MANNER MADE ME UNEASY AT FIRST, BUT...
PEOPLE SAY THAT A LOT ABOUT ME
WELL, WHEN IT CAME TO CALLING ON YOUR SERVICES
THERE WAS INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO HIRING A THIRD-PARTY ADVISOR
BUT I FELT WE HAD TO FOR THE SAKE OF THE FIRM...
CHIEF, CHIEF!
LET'S TALK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE BUT WORK DURING OUR LUNCH BREAK

FOR EXAMPLE AFTER WE'VE MADE OUR WAY THROUGH OUR HUGE WORKLOAD
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO WHEN THE TIME COMES?
HOW ABOUT PLAYING GOLF OR GOING ON A MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING TRIP...
I SUPPOSE YOUR WIFE IS BUSY AS WELL RIGHT NOW. DO THE TWO OF YOU TAKE TIME OUT TO UNWIND?


HUH?
YOU ALWAYS WEAR THE SAME TIE
IT SEEMS SHE'S NOT TOO PICKY ABOUT THE OUTFITS WORN BY THE MAN OF THE HOUSE

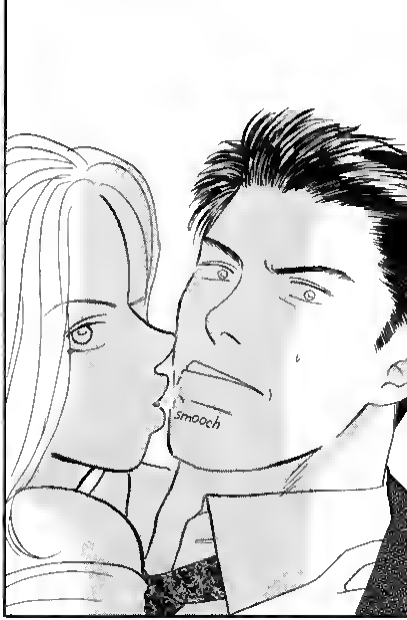
HUH? DID YOU SAY YOU'RE UNATTACHED?
YOU TOO, CHIEF ARAKI?
HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH A DIVORCE AS WELL?
HEY, THAT'S NOT IT! IT'S JUST THAT RECENTLY I...
EXCUSE ME FOR BRINGING IT UP. WHY AM I, AN UNATTACHED GUY, WORRYING ABOUT YOUR DRESS SENSE OF ALL THINGS?
WELL, I'M MAKING MY WIFE WAIT FOR THE TIME BEING.
BUT WE'RE SEPARATED ALREADY AND...
I'LL STOP TALKING ABOUT IT
SOMEHOW I GUESS IT BECAME A HOT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT MY PLACE ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS THE MERGER.
NO, DON'T STOP TALKING
BECAUSE I'VE JUST FOUND SOMEONE WITH WHOM I CAN FORM A CLIQUE OF UNATTACHED OLD MEN.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND! LET'S GO OUT AND HAVE FUN TONIGHT!
U-UNATTACHED OLD MEN?

BUT, KOBAYASHI-SAN...
YOU MUST KNOW A LOT OF FUN ACTIVITIES, RIGHT?
NONSENSE! THIS ONE'S A CLASSIC GAME FOR OLD MEN!
slam
I PLAY GOLF SOCIALLY AT BEST.
AND I BET OUT ALL THE TIME.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF US!
I DRINK ALONE AT HOME...
AHH, DON'T DO THAT!
FROM NOW ON I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY SO PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL ANYTIME.

IT'S A BIT HOT IN HERE HUH?
NAH, THERE'S NO WAY I'M SINGING!
JUST ONE SONG, CHIEF ARAKI!
JUST LISTENING IS ENJOYABLE ENOUGH FOR ME
HUH?
IS HE FEELING HORNY?
BUT THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF SONGS IN HERE!
I'M ON DANGEROUS GROUND
.....
DAMN! HE LOOKS UNUSUALLY CUTE WITH HIS READING GLASSES!

NOW WE'RE IN HERE
IT'S FINE ALL FINE! I ALWAYS USE THIS PLACE TO ENTERTAIN CLIENTS
BASEMENT 2F SNACKS & BAR WE WON'T RIP YOU OFF!
KOBAYASHI-SAN... THIS SEEMS TO BE A SHADY JOINT...
SALON NEKO
YOU'RE SO RUDE!
DO I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH YOU IN ORDER TO EASE MY FRUSTRATION FOR NOW?
yank
WELL IT LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND A NICE LADY FOR THE CHIEF
IT MUST BE SO TEDIOUS FOR A HOMO TO KEEP HIS CLIENTS ENTERTAINED, KOBA-CHAN!
SHH!
...THERE'S HARDLY ANOTHER MAN AROUND!
?
?
?
PRIVATE ROOM
HANG ON! HANG ON!
SHE WANTS TO BE ALONE WITH HIM IN OUR SPECIAL ROOM.
OH, LOOKS LIKE HE'S HER TYPE!
WHERE'S SHE TAKING THE CHIEF?
?
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT'S THAT LADY DOING?
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT ME BUT...

DASH
I CHANGED MY MIND! DON'T GO THAT FAR TO ENTERTAIN HIM!
I BELIEVE IT WAS YOU, KOBA-CHAN.
WAIT, WAIT! WHO TOLD HER TO GO THAT FAR TO ENTERTAIN HIM?
WHAM
CHIEF...
ARAKI!


smooch

AH!
Pull
.....

IF YOU WERE PLANNING TO HUMILIATE ME, YOU MIGHT HAVE JUST SUCCEEDED
I HATE THIS THIS IS NOT MY IDEA OF FUN.

CHIEF!
Shove
UH...

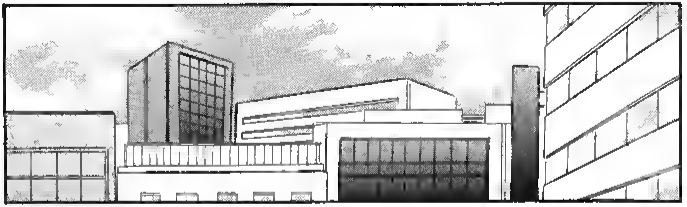
YET I THOUGHT WE COULD'VE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS!
Please come by again!
COULD WE HAVE BEEN
GOOD FRIENDS?
IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT INCIDENT...
...HE COULD'VE BEEN A GREAT FRIEND

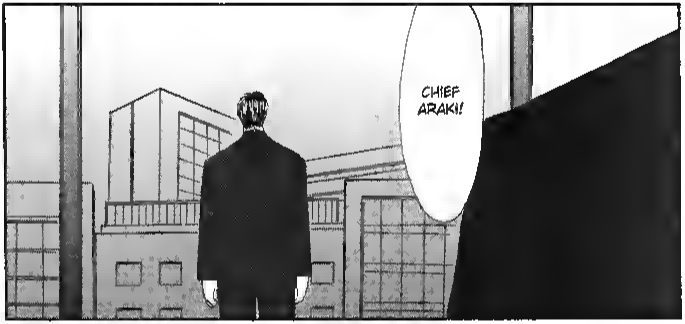
OH, CHIEF ARAKI IS BUSY TODAY SO HE ASKED NOT TO BE DISTURBED.
tap tap
creep
STARTING TODAY I'LL BE RELIEVING ARAKI AS THE PERSON IN CHARGE
IN TRAY
TO EF
HE'S JUST GONE OUT ON HIS OWN
WHAT'S CHIEF ARAKI DOING FOR LUNCH?
SORRY, I DON'T HAVE THE TIME
UH, CHIEF ARAKI?
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE OTHER DAY—
.....
.....

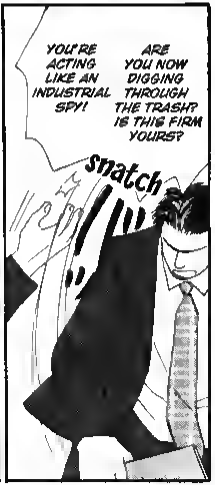
WHAT'S GOING ON? IS SOMEONE MOVING OFFICE? ARE THEY THROWING OUT DOCUMENTS?
WASTE
THIS FIRM IS CRAWLING WITH NICE MEN YET I'M STILL DEPRESSED
TRUDGE
gloom
TRUDGE
I'M DEPRESSED
BUT WHY? I CAN'T WORK OUT WHY I'M SO DEPRESSED
I RECEIVED THIS PICTURE FRAME AND PEN AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS FROM THE CHIEF
THEY'RE VALUABLE ITEMS TOO!
MANAGER'S OFFICE → WASTE
BECAUSE CHIEF ARAKI IN PARTICULAR IS THROWING OUT LOTS OF STUFF HE NO LONGER WANTS
BUT EVERYONE'S SORTING THROUGH THEIR OWN PERSONAL EFFECTS
THE OFFICES ON THIS FLOOR AREN'T MOVING DESPITE THE MERGER, ARE THEY?
flip
flip
HMM. SO HE'S THROWING OUT THESE FILES...
BUT THEY LOOK AS IF THEY'LL STILL BE USEFUL LATER ON

IN LESS THAN A WEEK, THE MERGER WILL BE FINALIZED.
SO HOW ABOUT WE GET THIS WORKPLACE ORGANIZED?
THERE WILL BE A MORE STRINGENT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT WITHIN OUR NEW COMPANY.
SO EACH AND EVERY EMPLOYEE MUST AIM FOR ATTENTION TO DETAIL IN THEIR WORK
PLEASE TAKE THE UTMOST CARE IN HANDLING PERSONAL INFORMATION.

LET'S ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE START OF OUR NEW FIRM!
PLEASE DON'T TAKE YOUR EYE OFF THE BALL EVERYONE!



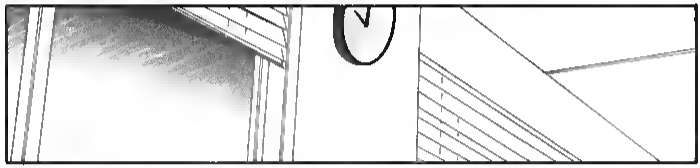

CHIEF ARAKI!

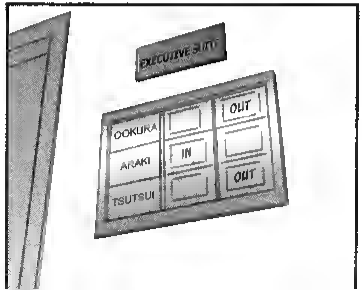

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE AN INDUSTRIAL SPY!
ARE YOU NOW DIGGING THROUGH THE TRASH? IS THIS FIRM YOURS?
snatch

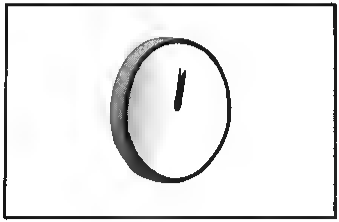
SURELY A COMPANY AWARD FROM THE PRESIDENT AND A LETTER OF PROMOTION ARE THE LAST ITEMS YOU'D TOSS OUT?
YOU SHOULD TAKE MORE CARE WHEN TIDYING UP YOUR OFFICE

AT LONG LAST.
THE FINAL DAY OF TRADING AS SEIBU GENERAL INSURANCE!
NO MATTER WHAT THEY SAY, I'LL MISS THIS FIRM.
TODAY THEY'RE CLOSING DOWN OUR WHOLE DEPART-MENT.
YOUR OFFICE AS WELL?

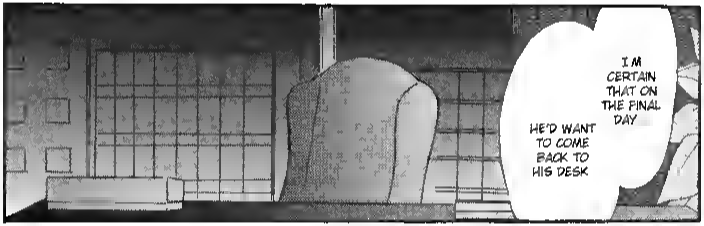
EXCUSE ME, KOBAYASHI-SAN TONIGHT I'VE GOT A FUNCTION TO ATTEND.
YEAH NO PROBLEM
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

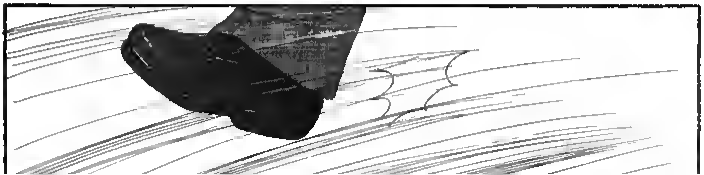



EXECUTIVE SUITE
OOKUKA
ARAKI
TSUTSUI
IN
OUT
OUT



SO HE'S NOT BACK?
DID HE GO HOME AFTER A MEETING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE?
NO WAY


I'M CERTAIN THAT ON THE FINAL DAY
HE'D WANT TO COME BACK TO HIS DESK



CHIEF ARAKI
ON THE VERY FIRST MORNING THE NEW FIRM OPENS ITS DOOR...
ARE YOU GOING TO WATCH FROM UP HERE?
OR WILL YOU
...TEAR UP THE LETTER OF RESIGNATION YOU'RE HOLDING IN YOUR HAND?
huff
huff

WOULD IT LOOK GOOD FOR YOU TO BE THROWING DOWN LITTER FROM UP HERE?
BUT IF...
IF YOU WERE THINKING OF JUMPING OFF, THEN I GUESS IT WOULDN'T MATTER THAT MUCH...
JUMP...
...FROM HERE?
WHY WOULD I?

WELL...
OF COURSE NOT.
I'D NEVER DO SUCH A THING.
YOU LOVE THE FIRM SO MUCH YOU'D NEVER DREAM OF TARNISHING ITS NAME WITH YOUR BLOOD, RIGHT?
FORGIVE ME..

IT DOESN'T MATTER.
NOTHING MATTERS...
WELL, I GUESS I'M FREE...
...TO DO WHATEVER THE HELL I WANT.

THE CLIENTELE I BUILT UP.
I'LL BE TRANSFERRED TO A DEAD-END GENERAL MANAGEMENT POST...
THE PRODUCTS I DEVISED.
AND EVEN THE SALES SYSTEM I DEVELOPED WILL ALL BE TAKEN FROM ME
IN THE TIME IT'S TAKEN TO SET UP THE NEW FIRM, THINGS HAVE BEEN MUCH THE SAME SO FAR.
BUT AFTER THIS, I KNOW WHAT'S COMING.

MY SON, WHO'S IN HIGH SCHOOL WON'T EVEN MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ME
MY WIFE'S WALKED OUT ON ME.
IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF I GO HOME OR NOT.
IT NO LONGER MATTERS
IF I DON'T HAVE ANY HANDS-ON INVOLVEMENT, THEN IT'S MEANINGLESS TO ME
ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE ESTABLISHED WILL BE TAKEN OVER BY THE NEW COMPANY, BUT...
W-WE'LL MAKE LOVE!
LET'S MAKE LOVE!
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!
SWAP
SO I CAN DO WHATEVER THE HELL I WANT—
HUH?
UH—

SO WHAT ABOUT THE COMPANY? SO WHAT ABOUT ALL THOSE YOUNG MEN? THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT WHATEVER HAPPENS!
BUT RIGHT NOW...
YOU'VE GOT TO LIVE FOR YOURSELF FIRST, NOT FOR YOUR FAMILY OR COMPANY!
YOU HAVE EMOTIONS. SO USE YOUR BODY TO FEEL THEM!
IF WE MAKE LOVE, THERE'LL BE PLEASURE HAPPINESS, PAIN!
WHAT...
grab
RIGHT NOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE I ..
WHAT THE HELL...
I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU!
I LOVE YOU!
UH..
HUH?

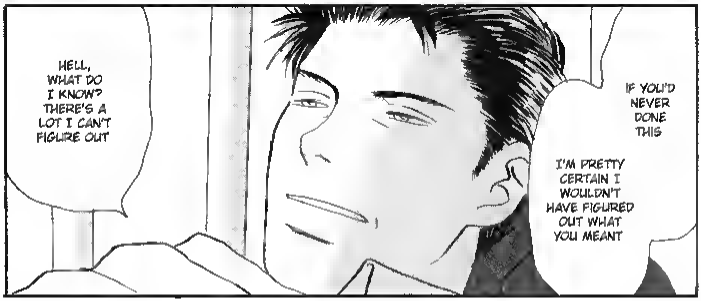
AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, THEN THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE TO SAY.
I'D NEVER ALLOW MY SWEETHEART TO TURN HIMSELF INTO A LIFELESS CORPSE.
I WANT HIM TO BE ADORABLE...
...AND FULL OF LIFE.
WON'T YOU ACCEPT MY LOVE?
I... ACCEPT LOVE...
YOU AND ME...
IS THAT POSSIBLE BETWEEN US?
...MAKE LOVE?
Y-YOU MAKE LOVE TO ME?
IS THAT WHAT WE'RE DOING?
...WHAT THAT'S LIKE.
I FORGET MAKING LOVE...

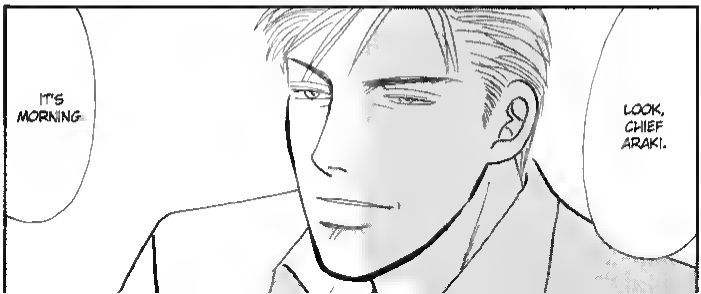
YOU...
DOWN THERE YOU'RE...
ARE YOU A HOMO?
NOW WHAT ARE YOU...
HANG ON! COME BACK TO ME!
PANIC IS MAKING YOU LOSE YOUR MIND!
VERY SOON YOU'LL BE LOSING THAT TOO...
EVEN IF I'M A HOMO... IT FEELS GOOD, RIGHT?
WITH A GUY LIKE ME...
OR DOES IT FEEL GROSS?
EVEN IF I SAY IT'S GROSS...
PERHAPS IT'S YOUR SEDUCTIVE SKILL THAT'S MAKING ME RESPOND...

I-I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING UNDRESSED...
OBVIOUSLY YOU HATE THIS, RIGHT?
.....
AAH!
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
IT'S JUST A NORMAL PHYSICAL REACTION.
AH!
AHH...
ONCE I GET THIS FAR,
I GET THE URGE TO TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
WELL THEN...
DO YOU MIND IF I UNZIP MY PANTS TOO?
Y-YOU'RE...
GOING TOO FAR!
NO!
IF I DON'T STOP NOW...
THERE'LL BE NO TURNING BACK...
CAN I KEEP GOING, CHIEF?
FEELS..
DOES IT FEEL BAD CHIEF ARAKI?
ARGH!
haa
L-LOVE YOU...
haa
B-BUT I SERIOUSLY LOVE YOU...
I DO
EVEN THIS... IS NOT ENOUGH!
I NEED MORE!
haa
I'M IN LOVE...
haa

AAH! AH!
I...
I DID IT!
YOU'RE COMING, CHIEF!
I...
I'M COMING!
I...
MM!
HA!
AH...
DAMN!
I'M... NEARLY THERE!
shudder
shudder
I'M...
...COMING!
shudder
AH...
.....

FORGIVE...
FORGIVE ME CHIEF ARAKI
I HUMILIATED YOU DIDN'T I?
YOU... DIDN'T GO THAT FAR
I THINK THAT I'VE COOLED DOWN
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I LOVE YOU I SWEAR,
BUT I'VE BEGUN TO REALIZE THAT'S NO EXCUSE FOR WHAT I DID...


HELL, WHAT DO I KNOW? THERE'S A LOT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT
IF YOU'D NEVER DONE THIS
I'M PRETTY CERTAIN I WOULDN'T HAVE FIGURED OUT WHAT YOU MEANT


IT'S MORNING.
LOOK, CHIEF ARAKI.

AT LAST!
THE MORNING THE NEW COMPANY IS BORN...
FINALLY I CAN SEE IT
I COULD SLEEP HERE...
...UNTIL THE FIRM'S MORNING ASSEMBLY
AHH... HEY KOBAYASHI-SAN?
IN MY JACKET...
.....

NO NEED TO WORRY
...BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY TORN UP YOUR LETTER OF RESIGNATION FOR YOU.
SO GO TAKE A NAP UNTIL IT'S TIME FOR THE MORNING ASSEMBLY
.end.

Koi wo Kanjite

恋を感じて

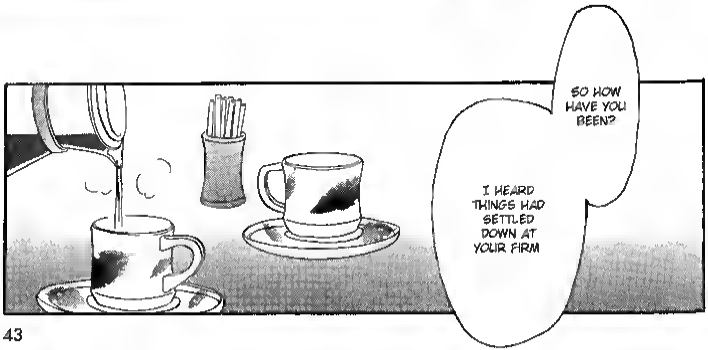
Feel the Love

ALTHOUGH THE MERGER BETWEEN THE MAJOR FIRM FIRE CENTRAL AND MEDIUM-SIZED FIRM SEIBU GENERAL INSURANCE...
WAS SOMEWHAT CHAOTIC AT FIRST
BUSINESS WAS GOOD WITH A STEADY STREAM OF SALES
K.S PLANNING
SAY, KOBAYASHI-SAN,
DID YOU TRANSFER THAT INSURANCE MERGER PROJECT TO INOUE-KUN? HE'S A GOOD WORKER.
I KNEW IT... KOBAYASHI-SAN YOU'RE QUICK TO SIDESTEP YOUR WORK AS USUAL...
I'VE GOT AN URGENT BUSINESS APPOINTMENT NOW!
AND YOU'RE ACCUMULATING A TON OF UNFINISHED PAPERWORK AS USUAL...
YES PRESIDENT.
I'M GOING TO KEEP MY SCHEDULE FREE UNTIL THE NEW YEAR. THAT'S WHEN I HOPE TO ACQUIRE A COUPLE OF MAJOR NEW PROJECTS

HM? WHAT'S THIS MEMO?
FIRST I'LL SORT THROUGH MY RECEIPTS...
flutter
I NEVER GET THROUGH MUCH OF IT BECAUSE IT BORES ME STIFF!
SHIT! OFFICE PAPERWORK BORES ME STIFF!
Kuwayashi-sama
Agenda for next meeting
• S-KAN usage
Interdepartmental relations
Timetable
LOOKS SO NEAT AND PRECISE
ARAKI-SAN'S HAND-WRITING
WHY ELSE WOULD I MAKE LOVE TO THAT OLD GEEZER?
HELL IT FELT LIKE HUMPING A ROCKY SKI SLOPE!
I GUESS I ALSO GOT CAUGHT UP IN
THE FRENZIED VIBE SURROUNDING THE MERGER
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT

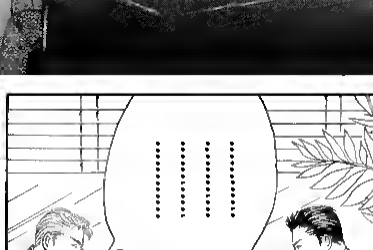
SO IF I DON'T GET TO SEE HIM SOON,
MY PASSION FOR HIM WILL BEGIN COOLING OFF
SO WHAT IF IT DOES? HE'S THE ONLY GEEZER I'VE EVER HOOKED UP WITH IN THE FIRST PLACE!
SINCE THEN HE'S BEEN BUSY RUSHING TO EVERY BRANCH OFFICE IN THE COUNTRY TO SPEAK AT ONE MEETING AFTER ANOTHER
BUT I HEAR THERE ARE LOTS OF NICE YOUNG MEN JUST STARTING OUT IN THE WORLD,
AND YOU COULD SAY I'M A MAN WITH A LOT OF LOVE TO GIVE
BUT OF COURSE I CAN'T GO UNTIL I GET THROUGH MY PAPERWORK!
YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
OUR RECEPTION ROOM IS FREE FOR THE TWO OF YOU
SO I GOTTA GO! I'M OUT OF HERE!
WHAT WAS THAT KOBAYASHI-SAN?
IT'S NEARLY NOON. I SUPPOSE IT'S SOME SALESWOMAN TRYING TO SELL ME INSURANCE
HUH? BUT THERE'S NO ONE OUT HERE!
PARDON ME— I WAS USING THE BATHROOM.

I DO SELL INSURANCE BUT I'M A SALESMAN.
MY NAME IS ARAKI
LONG TIME NO SEE.


SO HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
I HEARD THINGS HAD SETTLED DOWN AT YOUR FIRM

YES, THANKS TO YOU.
OH, WHICH REMINDS ME...
YOU'RE NOT THE CONSULTANT FOR OUR FIRM ANYMORE ARE YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT INOUE, THE PERSON TAKING MY PLACE IS AN EXPERT IN MANAGING THE POST-MERGER INTEGRATION PHASE...
YOU CAN RELY ON HIM.
I'M SURE I CAN.

UH...
PARDON ME
NO, YOU GO FIRST.
NO, AFTER YOU.

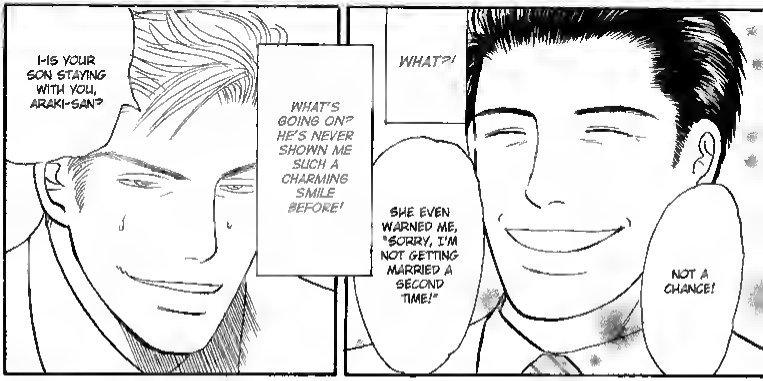


I SEE! BUT YOU TOLD ME YOU'D BE TRANSFERRED TO A DEAD-END JOB!
ISN'T THAT A BIG DEPARTMENT?
YOU'LL BE RIGHT IN THE THICK OF THE FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE OPERATIONS.

WELL... IT TURNS OUT THAT I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF COMPLIANCE AND WORK RESTRUCTURING FROM OCTOBER.

NO WONDER NOW YOU'LL BE IN A POSITION TO ADVISE THE FIRM AS WELL
HOWEVER, I'M RATHER NERVOUS ABOUT IT BECAUSE I'VE ONLY WORKED IN SALES THE WHOLE TIME
WELL, I HAVEN'T COME HERE TO TALK TO YOU ON BEHALF OF MY FIRM
YEAH, SURE! IN THAT CASE...
HOW ABOUT HAVING LUNCH?
I'VE GOT A LOT ON MY MIND AND I NEED SOMEONE TO TALK TO. DO YOU HAPPEN TO BE FREE?
RIGHT, I SEE.
LATER MY WIFE AND I WERE OFFICIALLY DIVORCED

OH, THAT'S GOOD
IT'S AS IF WE CAN SPEAK OPENLY TO EACH OTHER NOW THAT WE'VE MADE THE SPLIT
BUT THERE'S BEEN A MIRACULOUS CHANGE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP!
WE EVEN EAT OUT TOGETHER ONCE IN A WHILE.
DO YOU THINK YOU TWO MIGHT GET BACK TOGETHER?
NO WAY! I MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS!
YET IT'S ONLY DOUBLED HIS SEX APPEAL
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S BACK FROM A BUSINESS TRIP THAT HE LOOKS TIRED .. EVEN OLDER?
THIS GEEZER'S NO BIG DEAL TO ME
UH HUH, I'M COMPLETELY CALM


I-IS YOUR SON STAYING WITH YOU, ARAKI-SAN?
WHAT'S GOING ON? HE'S NEVER SHOWN ME SUCH A CHARMING SMILE BEFORE!
WHAT?!
SHE EVEN WARNED ME, "SORRY, I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED A SECOND TIME!"
NOT A CHANCE!

gulp gulp
NO! HOLD ON, HOLD ON! TAKE IT EASY!
DON'T YOU AND YOUR SON TALK TO EACH OTHER?
The classes aren't ...
HE'S GOT HIS EXAMS NEXT YEAR, SO IT MIGHT BE A BAD IDEA FOR HIM TO MOVE OUT.
YES, BUT HE ALSO SPENDS SOME TIME AT HIS MOTHER'S PLACE
I WANNA SHOVE HIM DOWN AND SCREW HIM IN TWELVE DIFFERENT POSITIONS RIGHT HERE!

HUH? TONIGHT? THOSE TWELVE POSITIONS?
YEAH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... HOW ABOUT TONIGHT?
I MEAN GO OUT FOR A DRINK. HEY I'M TAKING YOU AT YOUR WORD. YOU SAID I COULD CALL ON YOU ANYTIME.
WE SHOULD GO OUT FOR A DRINK ANOTHER TIME
BUT HE WAS CUTE IN THE BRIEF TIME HE LOOKED UP TO ME AS HIS FATHER
NOW HE'S A TEENAGER IN SENIOR HIGH, HE WON'T BOTHER CONFIDING IN A GROWN-UP LIKE ME,
WOULD IT FEEL NICE TO SLIDE MY WAY BETWEEN HIS FIRM ASSCHEEKS?
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! IT WOULD FEEL GREAT!
WAVE WAVE
YEAH, ALL RIGHT!
THEN LET'S MAKE IT TOMORROW EVENING! I'LL CALL YOU!
HOW ABOUT TOMOR-ROW?
TWELVE POSITIONS
FIRM ASS-CHEEKS
UMM... UH— TONIGHT'S A BIT...
UH TOMORROW I'LL BE...
Y-YOU!
YOU DEVIOUS OLD GEEZER!

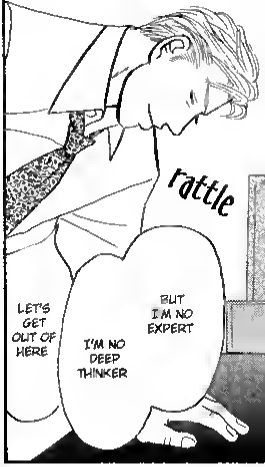
HEY, HIROSHI! IT'S ME! ME!
YOU'RE COMING TO MY PLACE TONIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
ANYWAY I'M GLAD I DIDN'T AGREE TO GO OUT TONIGHT
I WAS FIRM AND DECISIVE WHEN I TURNED HIM DOWN
... TO HAVE SELECTIVE AMNESIA WHEN IT COMES TO RECALLING INEXPLICABLE EVENTS LIKE WHAT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT?
IS IT TYPICAL OF OLD MEN
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE HERE ALL NIGHT, DON'T FORGET TO CONSERVE POWER
SURE! I WON'T GO ANYWHERE UNTIL I SORT OUT MY PAPERWORK!
I'D BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD WORK LATE
ALL RIGHT! TONIGHT I'M GETTING A HOT GUY TO MILK ME DRY!
OOH!
YOU WERE TOLD TO GET IT DONE.
BUT YOU BROUGHT YOUR WORK HOME.
IS THIS A GOOD IDEA?
AH! AAAH!
GEEZ WHO'S THE ONE WHO CAN'T HOLD BACK?
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T HOLD BACK NO MATTER WHAT, SWEETHEART!
IT'S GOOD IT'S ALL GOOD!

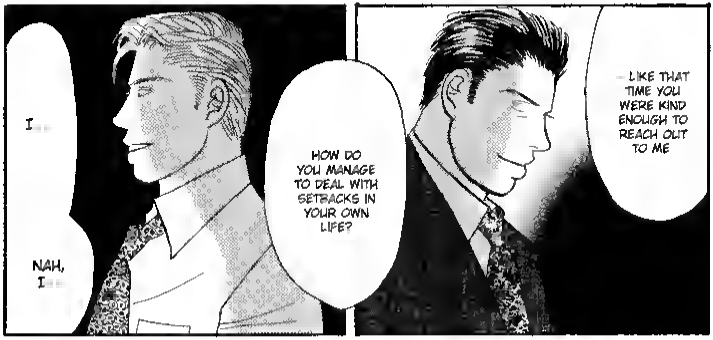
HARDER!
DO IT HARDER!
MOAN FOR ME IN YOUR SEXY VOICE
IT'S SO CUTE! I LOVE IT!
I LOVE THIS TOO... ESPECIALLY YOUR CHINKO, KOBAYASHI-SAN!
SHEESH! DON'T CALL IT A CHINKO!
AAH!
YOU'RE GREAT...
YOU'RE A GREAT GUY.

IT SEEMS I'M ALSO NOW IN CHARGE OF RESOLVING SEXUAL HARASSMENT DISPUTES.
BUT I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH THE OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN THAT SECTION.
COMPLIANCE - IN OTHER WORDS, ADHERENCE TO THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS,...
...HAS BECOME CRUCIAL IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.
SO WHEN IT COMES TO THE HANDLING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION IN OUR CUSTOMER DATABASE,
THERE ARE STRICT PROTOCOLS IN PLACE.
SO YOU'RE A SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER AS WELL ARAKI-SAN?
WELL, THE CONTACT PERSON IS MY SUBORDINATE, AND SHE'S AN EXPERT IN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO VICTIMS...
BUT TO MAKE THINGS WORSE I'VE ALSO BEEN SADDLED WITH THE EMPLOYEES COUNSELING SERVICE
WHEN A FEMALE COLLEAGUE WAS IN TEARS THE OTHER DAY, I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE HOW TO COMFORT HER.
YOU'LL BE FINE! YOU'RE WELL-QUALIFIED FOR THE ROLE, ARAKI-SAN
EVEN THOUGH I'M A DIVORCED MAN?
THAT'S PRECISELY MY POINT.
SOMEONE WHO'S COMPLETELY HAPPY WITH THEIR LOT IN LIFE IS LESS LIKELY TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS WHO ARE HAVING A TOUGH TIME
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPERIENCE UNDER YOUR BELT...
AND YOU'VE PROBABLY MET PEOPLE FROM MANY WALKS OF LIFE

LET'S SAY A WOMAN WERE TO BURST INTO TEARS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
I'M SURE YOU'D AT LEAST BE ABLE TO FEEL FOR HER.
YOU'D ASK YOURSELF, HOW DOES SHE FEEL?
IS SHE SAD OR ANGRY OR FRUSTRATED AT THE MOMENT?
THEN YOU'D THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU COULD DO FOR HER.
WOULD A GLASS OF WATER HELP? MAYBE A BOX OF TISSUES?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FEEL FOR THE PERSON WHO'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

KORAYASHI-SAN, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE ON YOUR MIND?
HUH?
YOU SEEM LIKE AN ASSERTIVE GUY WHO WORKS AT HIS OWN PACE...
YET YOU'RE ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE PAIN OTHER PEOPLE FEEL...


rattle
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
I'M NO DEEP THINKER
BUT I'M NO EXPERT


I...
NAH, I...
HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO DEAL WITH SETBACKS IN YOUR OWN LIFE?
...LIKE THAT TIME YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO REACH OUT TO ME

EH?
SHINYA?

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THEY EVEN LOOK UNDERAGE...
GEEZ, KIDS THESE DAYS! THEY'RE A LOST CAUSE!
You all right?
Ugh!
Hoooo

Crash
WHO CARES ABOUT MY PROBLEMS? IF WE'RE GONNA PARTY ALL NIGHT, LET'S START HAVING FUN!
HM?

YOU'RE NOT STUDYING AT HOME!
WHAT'S WORSE, YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING!
SHUT UP! EVERYONE DRINKS BEER WHEN THEY GO TO A KARAOKE BAR!
HEY!
WAH! IT'S MY OLD MAN!
HELL, I'M OUTTA HERE! SEE YA, SHINYA!
HANG ON, SHINYA! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
I GOT MY TRIAL EXAM RESULTS THE OTHER DAY. I WAS TOLD I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM GETTING INTO MY CHOSEN UNIVERSITY.
HAVE YOU CHECKED WITH MOM?
B-BUT WHY DO THIS AT SUCH AN IMPORTANT TIME OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?
SINCE I'VE DONE WHAT YOU ALL WANT OF ME, YOU'VE GOT NO REASON TO NAG.
Whew!
STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE ANY BETTER IN FRONT OF YOUR WORK COLLEAGUE!
WHO ARE YOU TO TALK? YOU GO OUT DRINKING TOO!
C-CALM DOWN! EASY DOES IT, ARAKI-SAN!
JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE DOES IT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT!
IT'S BEYOND HIM. HE HASN'T BEEN A FATHER TO ME FOR GOD KNOWS HOW LONG
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TADPOLE, SO SHUT UP!
SHOW HIM WHO'S BOSS ARAKI-SAN!
SO WHAT IF HE'S A GENIUS? YOU'RE HIS FATHER! TELL THE BRAT OFF!
I-I SEE
I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT THEN

THEN DROP OUT AND GET A JOB!
I DON'T RECALL ASKING HIM FOR HELP. I NEVER LIKED GOING TO SCHOOL THAT MUCH.
UH... UHM... KOBAYASHI-SAN?
ONCE YOU WERE NOTHING BUT A TADPOLE SWIMMING INSIDE ARAKI-SAN'S TESTICLES. REMEMBER?
KOBA—
W-WHO ARE YOU CALLING
shove
YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL HE BOTHERED TO FEED YOU AND SEND YOU TO SCHOOL!
TAXI!
Y-YOUR LOGIC IS FALLING APART, KOBAYASHI-SAN.
AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
WHO SAYS HE'S DOING IT FOR ME? HE JUST LOVES HIS JOB.
BUT YOU'RE STUCK REVIEWING SEXUAL HARASSMENT CASES AND WORKING YOURSELF TO THE BONE TO RAISE THIS UNGRATEFUL BRAT!
IF HE'S DETERMINED TO GO OUT WHENEVER HE LIKES, THEN—
YOUR FATHER TOLD YOU TO STUDY, DIDN'T HE? SO GO HOME AND STUDY, YOU TADPOLE!
LOOK, IF THAT BASTARD WANTS YOUR LOVE HE SHOULD ACT LIKE A RESPONSIBLE ADULT AND MOVE OUT OF YOUR DAMN HOUSE!
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE A NICE GUY THAT EVERYONE MAKES USE OF YOU!

whirl
clap
clap
THAT TAKES CARE OF HIM!
I-I'M SORRY...
FORGIVE ME FOR YELLING AT YOUR SON LIKE THAT.
W-WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A BIG ROW WHEN I GET HOME
I-I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF LINE.
I'M JUST AN OUTSIDER WHO'S MANAGED TO MAKE THINGS WORSE...
IT'S A FEW BLOCKS TO MY PLACE
COULD YOU WALK THE WAY THERE WITH ME?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ARAKI-SAN?
UGH!
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T SEND YOU HOME TO CONFRONT THE TADPOLE IN YOUR CURRENT STATE.
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE YOU BACK TO MY PLACE.
HERE WE ARE!
SHIT!
ZZZZ
UH HUH!
mumble mumble
HIS HAND'S MOVING BY ITSELF!
HUH? THAT'S FUNNY
I MUST LOOSEN HIS TIE
moving carefully
BUT I CAN'T LET HIS SUIT GET CREASED EITHER.
NAH, NO WAY MAKING A MOVE ON AN INTOXICATED GUY WHO'S HALF-ASLEEP AIN'T MY STYLE.

HE'S WAKING UP
flinch
SO HE MUST BE... COMING TO HIS SENSES
HE REALIZES WHAT I'M DOING
HE CLEARLY RECALLS WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE

GRAB
WAH!
NO!
DON'T!
DON'T!
ARGH!
YOU...
I MEAN ...
UH...
I...
I-I'M...
Y-Y-YEAH! I'LL BE OFF!
YOU BETTER HURRY ON HOME
YOU'VE SNAPPED OUT OF IT, RIGHT?
I KNOW
I DON'T BELIEVE IN FORCING MYSELF ON AN UNWILLING PARTNER
B-BUT THIS IS GOING TOO FAR!
I-I'M GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR ME

I REALIZE
slam
I...
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
...THAT I'VE BEEN PICKING UP YOUNGER GUYS THE WHOLE TIME...
I'VE LIMITED MYSELF TO HOT-LOOKING GUYS
WHO ARE LESS MATURE THAN ME
THERE'S NO USE MAKING A PASS...
...AT A MAN WHO'S A RESPECTABLE FATHER.
0!?a

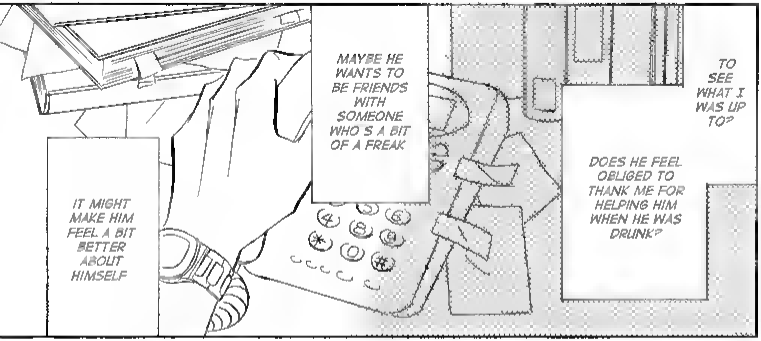
tiptoe
tiptoe
tiptoe
SHINYA'S KEEP OUT
UH...
I'M BACK!
YOU'RE ALREADY ASLEEP, HUH?
GOOD! SINCE HE'S IN BED,
I'LL GIVE HIM A STERN LECTURE IN THE MORNING...
...ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRINKING AND STAYING OUT LATE.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TOMORROW, I'LL READ HIM THE RIOT ACT!

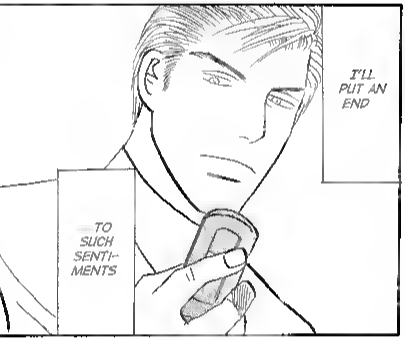
HOPE
WHAM
MAYBE I'LL TRY WRITING IT IN A MEMO INSTEAD

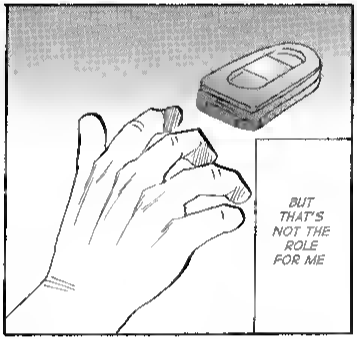
HOLD ON A SEC, SHINYA!
I GUESS IT WON'T MATTER TO YOU WHEN I GROW UP AND GET OUT OF HERE EITHER.
YEAH YEAH, AND IN THE END I'M JUST A TADPOLE
I-I'M AN ADULT, SO IT DOESN'T MATTER!
YUCK! YOU STINK OF ALCOHOL!
LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR, SHINYA AS A MINOR LIVING UNDER MY ROOF...
SO YOU'RE AWAKE?

YOUR FRIEND WAS SO MEAN TO ME, DAD.
I NEVER TOLD YOU TO GET OUT! THAT'S NOT HOW I FEEL!
MY FRIEND, HUH?
IT ALWAYS TAKES ME BY SURPRISE
—WHEN HE CALLS ME 'DAD.'
バタ
slam
HUH?
IS HE REALLY MY FRIEND?

IF YOU HAVE SOME FREE TIME,
WHY DON'T WE GO OUT FOR A DRINK AGAIN?
UMM, WELL...
I'M A BIT BUSY TODAY...
WILL THIS OLD GEEZER NEVER LEARN?!
LOOK. HOW ABOUT YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE THIS WEEKEND?
YEAH, IT'S NO PROBLEM.
I'VE GOT NOTHING PLANNED.
I'M A FAIRLY GOOD COOK
DID HE CALL ME


IT MIGHT MAKE HIM FEEL A BIT BETTER ABOUT HIMSELF
MAYBE HE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE WHO'S A BIT OF A FREAK
DOES HE FEEL OBLIGED TO THANK ME FOR HELPING HIM WHEN HE WAS DRUNK?
TO SEE WHAT I WAS UP TO?





I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL

creak
ギシ
UH OH! SORRY ABOUT THIS!
Y-YOU'VE CAUGHT ME AT A BAD TIME!
creak
ギシ
slap
パン
slap
パン
I THOUGHT WE'D BE FINISHED BY THE TIME YOU TURNED UP!
HE'S A GUEST FROM LAST NIGHT! HE REFUSED TO GO HOME!
THEN WHEN HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF LEAVING, HE INSISTED ON ONE LAST ROUND...
AAAH! DON'T STOP! KEEP GOING!

EXCUSE ME, BUT WOULD YOU MIND WAITING OUT IN THE CORRIDOR?
HAHAHA! THIS IS ALL MY FAULT!
HURRY UP AND SHOVE IT IN ME, KOBAYASHI-SAN! SHOVE IT IN!
creak
creak
creak
creak
slap
slap
OOH! WONDERFUL! YOUR ASSHOLE'S SO NICE AND TIGHT!
AAH! YES!
YOU FEEL SO GOOD!
slap
slap
slap
whirl
creak
creak
creak
creak
slap
slap
slap
SLAM

I'M COMING!
YOU SAY YOU'RE COMING,
BUT YOU WENT LIMP HALFWAY THROUGH!
I GUESS WE DID ENOUGH. THAT OLD FART STORMED OUT IN SHOCK.
YEAH... RIGHT.

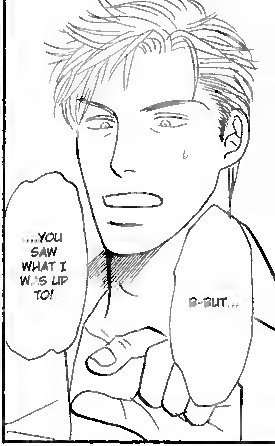
YOU WERE FAKING IT, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU DON'T USUALLY RAVE ABOUT MY ASSHOLE!
HELL, I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF IT WOULD GET YOU GOING
YOU BETTER BE UP FOR IT THE NEXT TIME I VISIT,
BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE ANY OTHER GUY'S CHINKO AS MUCH AS YOURS!
OHH...

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
I'M A MAN WITH A LOT OF LOVE TO GIVE

IF I DON'T FIND SOMEONE TO HOOK UP WITH,
I'LL BE FORGOTTEN AND LEFT BEHIND
SO MUCH FOR THIS LOVE OF MINE, HUH?

HM?
I'LL GO TAKE A PEE
RIGHT
FIRST OF ALL
WHAT THE
WHAT AM I DOING? YOU TOLD ME TO WAIT.
WHA—
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HUH?
HUH?
WHA—

...THAT THE MAN I KNEW WOULD NEVER...
YET I HAD THIS DESPERATE CONVICTION...
I SAW WHAT YOU WERE DOING.
I SAW IT ALL RIGHT.
YEAH.


...YOU SAW WHAT I WAS UP TO!
B-BUT...

HE USUALLY APPEARS SO UPBEAT AND CONFIDENT.
ALTHOUGH HE DOES HAVE A ROVING EYE.
...ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE CAUGHT IN SUCH A COMPROMISING SITUATION IN THE FIRST PLACE
HE'S NOT THE KIND OF PERSON TO BE SO CARELESS AND INCONSIDERATE

THAT MEANS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN EASE HIS PAIN.
BECAUSE I'M THE ONE HE LOVES
THAT HE'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME
MOST OF ALL, HE WAS THE ONE WHO SENSED MY INNER PAIN
HE EVEN TOLD ME ONCE

BUT I'M NOT WALKING OUT.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
IF I DON'T WALK OUT OF HERE,
I'M SURE I'LL BE RUINING HIS CAREFULLY-LAID PLANS.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE TO ANALYZE ME, OLD GEEZER! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! YOU'RE NO NICE GUY AT ALL!
PLAYING COUNSELOR AT WORK MUST'VE GONE TO YOUR HEAD! YOUR ASSESSMENT OF ME IS ALL WRONG!
BECAUSE...
WELL, I SIMPLY DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE GUY WHO LOVES ME...
BEING SO SURE OF YOURSELF IS NO WAY TO SHOW HOW MUCH YOU WANT MY LOVE, IS IT?
HMPH! DON'T EXPECT THINGS TO STAY THIS WAY BETWEEN US FOREVER.
creak
I ALWAYS HAVE A GREAT TIME WHEN I'M WITH YOU, AND I ALWAYS FEEL AT EASE WHEN I'M BY YOUR SIDE

SO IN OTHER WORDS,
YOU'RE ONLY AFTER ME FOR MY BODY.
WILL I EVER BE ALLOWED TO GO THAT FAR WITH YOU?
SOMEDAY I'LL GET THE URGE TO WORK YOU OVER LIKE I DID TO THAT GUY JUST THEN.
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE LOTS OF EAGER YOUNG MEN OUT THERE, YOUR BODY ALONE IS THE ONE I...
WAIT! HOLD ON!
SO IF I WON'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME, YOU'LL KICK ME OUT?
I WAS SURE YOU'D BE MORE CONSIDERATE THAN THIS.
dejected
NO, WAIT! IT'S NOT THE ONLY THING I WANT!

DON'T YOU SOMETIMES FEEL...
...A KISS CAN BE MORE EXHILARATING THAN SEX?
WELL...
I-I GUESS SO.
YOU'RE NOT SHY, ARE YOU? THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU AVOID MY GAZE!
IT MUST BE LOVE! YOU CAN FEEL IT, CAN'T YOU?
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO WIN ME OVER, HUH?
SO FAR I'M GIVING IT MY BEST SHOT. IF YOU'RE NOT THROWING ME OUT, THEN I'M STAYING PUT.
ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN.
I DID PROMISE YOU A HOME-COOKED MEAL AT MY PLACE SO—
SORRY FOR PUTTING YOU OUT!
FOOLED YA!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D LET YOU GET AWAY WITH A QUICK PECK ON THE CHEEK?!
gulp
gank

THAT'S SOMETHING ABOUT ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW. WHEN I GET DOWN TO BUSINESS I ALWAYS GET MY MAN
GROWL
AT LEAST...

NOW I'M GUARANTEED TO GAIN FIVE TO TEN KILOS OF FAT AFTER FALLING HARD FOR A HUNGRY OLD FART LIKE YOU!
YEAH, RIGHT!
WELL UMM... I GUESS YOU DON'T NORMALLY COOK SUCH BIG MEALS
WHEN I TOOK A LOOK AT YOU EARLIER, YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF FLAB ON YOU!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
.end.

DIRT ダート

TOUNAN BANK
NEKO INVESTMENTS
THE BANK IS CLOSED FOR TRADING TODAY
THANK YOU FOR VISITING OUR BRANCH.
I'M BACK.
I WAS HOPING I'D BE HERE IN TIME TO CHECK ON BUSINESS. BUT IT SEEMS I'M TOO LATE.
OH, BRANCH MANAGER! THAT MEETING AT HEAD OFFICE MUST'VE DELAYED YOU.
IT'S HOLDING UP WELL.
WAS OUR BANK'S DISPOSAL OF BAD LOANS THE BIG TOPIC AT THE MEETING?
OUR MOUNTAIN OF BAD DEBT IS THE BIG TALKING POINT AT EVERY BRANCH, RIGHT?
EVERY OTHER BANK TOO.
SO HOW'S THE NEW SYSTEM WORKING?
IS IT ANY WONDER? THE UPCOMING PRIVATIZATION OF JAPAN POST WILL PLACE EVEN MORE COMPETITIVE PRESSURE ON THE PRIVATE BANKING SECTOR

HE'S SO OBSERVANT!
HE'D NOTICE IF A SINGLE POT PLANT WAS OUT OF PLACE!
NO WAY! UNLESS YOU THINK HE'S A GARDENING ENTHUSIAST...
I'LL GO CHECK WITH THE ASSISTANT MANAGER HE MIGHT KNOW MORE ABOUT IT
THERE'S A CHANGE IN PERSONNEL TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR MAYBE THE NEW GUARD IS STANDING SOMEWHERE ELSE
NO, DON'T WORRY. PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR DUTIES I'LL SEE HIM MYSELF.
HE'S NOT STANDING AT HIS USUAL SPOT
BY THE WAY, HAS THE SECURITY GUARD BEEN POSTED IN A DIFFERENT LOCATION?
KNOCK
コン
コン
KNOCK
IWATA-SAN? IWATA-SAN MAY I COME IN?
IS THIS THE LAYOUT OF OUR VAULT?
HMM...
NO PROBLEM
I'LL REVIEW TODAY'S BUSINESS IN YOUR ABSENCE. BUT THAT OTHER MAN SPOKE AS IF YOU WERE STILL AROUND

CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
EXCUSE ME BUT YOU CAN'T ENTER PAST THIS POINT
I'M BRANCH MANAGER NISHIO.
PLEASE SHOW ME PROOF OF YOUR IDENTITY JUST TO BE SURE
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
SHOW ME YOUR FACE
SURE
SURPRISE!
flip

SLAM
bite
shove

MANAGER! WHAT'S THE COMBINATION TO THE VAULT?

F-FORGIVE ME, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE!
ARE THESE GUYS ROBBERS?
IWATA-SAN DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HELPING THEM?
WHAT?!
PLEASE! YOU'VE GOT TO TELL THEM THE COMBINATION TO THE VAULT!
I FORGOT TO CHECK AFTER TODAY'S CHANGEOVER!
WHOA, EASY THERE!
pat
I OWE MONEY TO LOAN SHARKS... I WAS ON THE BRINK OF FINANCIAL RUIN.
ONCE YOU HAND OVER A FEW DOCUMENTS AND ENOUGH SPARE CHANGE FOR THE TWO OF US TO CARRY, I SWEAR WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE HERE TO CLEAN OUT YOUR VAULT!
WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES!
DON'T BE TOO HARD ON HIM!

SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE!
I CAN DO IT.
YOU ALSO NEED A HANDPRINT FOR VAULT ACCESS.
THE COMBINATION ALONE WON'T OPEN IT.
HERE
I-I CAN'T MY HAND'S SHAKING...
COULD I HAVE A SIP OF WATER?
YO! HANG ON A SEC!
Snatch
.....

splash
IT'S TOO LATE. I'VE DRENCHED IT SO THE SENSOR WON'T WORK WHICH MEANS THE VAULT DOOR WON'T OPEN ANYMORE
AWW, DAMN!
SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, GO RIGHT AHEAD AND SHOOT!
I WON'T COOPERATE WITH YOU ANY FURTHER!
IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONCEAL THE SECURITY BREACH! WHAT WILL YOU DO THEN?
IN AN HOUR'S TIME, AN ARMORED TRUCK WILL ARRIVE FOR THE DAILY PICK-UP!
SO YOU'RE NISHIO TATSUROU

TATSUROU-SAN?
I'M SAYING IT RIGHT, AREN'T I? YOU LOOK YOUNGER THAN I IMAGINED YOU'D BE FOR YOUR AGE
YOU AND YOUR WIFE DIVORCED LAST YEAR. YOU'VE GOT NO KIDS.
DID YOU CHECK UP ON ME?
YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC WHO STEADILY WORKED HIS WAY UP THE CORPORATE LADDER. YOU'RE UNATTACHED AND DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY VICES
YOU MAY HAVE SLEPT AROUND WITH A COUPLE OF WOMEN, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ENOUGH DIRT TO BLACKMAIL YOU WITH

YOU'RE SO DEDICATED TO YOUR JOB YOU'D THINK NOTHING OF SACRIFICING YOURSELF IN THE LINE OF DUTY. HUH?
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE OUT OF WORK, AND THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY IS IN THE SAME BOAT.
I'LL NEVER OBEY THE ORDERS OF A BANK ROBBER LIKE YOU
THAT'S GREAT!

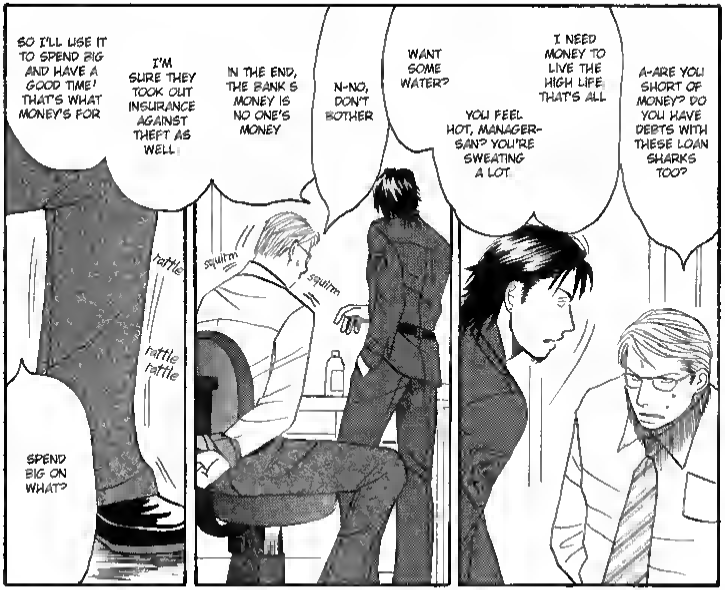
COOL! MANAGER-SAN, RING UP THE SECURITY FIRM AND TELL THEM TO POSTPONE THE PICK-UP BY AN EXTRA HOUR
I'LL NEED AT LEAST TWO
YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX THAT IN AN HOUR?
I REFUSE TO HELP YOU...
ON THE OTHER HAND...
WOULD IT BE SO GREAT IF I PUT A BULLET IN YOUR ASSISTANT MANAGER'S HEAD?
yank
PRETTY PLEASE?
THEN HOW ABOUT DOING IT FOR THE ASSISTANT MANAGER'S TWO KIDS?
poke
ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO MY BEST TO HOLD THEM OFF FOR AN HOUR
BUT THAT ALONE WILL MAKE THEM SUSPECT A SECURITY BREACH

SECURITY OFFICE
YEAH
AFTER THE ASSISTANT MANAGER BEGGED HIM, HE'S BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE.
OUR MANAGER HERE HAS SLOWED US DOWN A BIT WITH HIS HEROICS,
BUT I'M STILL CONFIDENT OF SUCCESS
YOU FOOL!
DO YOU THINK BANK ROBBERS IN JAPAN ARE SUCCESSFUL THESE DAYS?

YOU MAY GET AN ADRENALIN RUSH OUT OF IT.
BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW SERIOUS THIS CRIME IS?
EVEN IF YOU DO MANAGE TO GET AWAY WITH IT—
WHY DID YOU AND YOUR WIFE SPLIT UP?
click
WAS IT BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN?
WAS IT BECAUSE YOU WERE SO BUSY WITH WORK YOU NEGLECTED HER?
I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS! LOOK, YOU'RE BLEEDING...

WIPE AWAY THE BLOOD OR SOMETHING! YOU'RE MAKING A MESS!
THIS IS NOTHING! I'VE HAD WORSE
SO YOUR WIFE WAS THE ONE WHO LEFT YOU HUH?
SEE THIS?
THE BITE YOU JUST GAVE ME...
YOU WANT TO LICK IT CLEAN?
YOU'RE INSANE!
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS YOU WANT TO ASK ME TOO, HUH?

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW...
...WHY I KISSED YOU?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO PRETEND YOU DIDN'T KISS A GUY?
JUST LIKE YOUR SPOTLESS BUSINESS SHIRT—
—I BET YOU ALWAYS LIVE A SQUEAKY CLEAN LIFE.
MUST BE REALLY BORING— BUT YOU ARE AN OLD GEEZER.
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
YOU TRYING TO PROVOKE ME OR SOMETHING?
W-WHY—
WHY BE A BANK ROBBER?


SO I'LL USE IT TO SPEND BIG AND HAVE A GOOD TIME! THAT'S WHAT MONEY'S FOR
I'M SURE THEY TOOK OUT INSURANCE AGAINST THEFT AS WELL
IN THE END, THE BANK'S MONEY IS NO ONE'S MONEY
N-NO, DON'T BOTHER
WANT SOME WATER?
I NEED MONEY TO LIVE THE HIGH LIFE THAT'S ALL
A-ARE YOU SHORT OF MONEY? DO YOU HAVE DEBTS WITH THESE LOAN SHARKS TOO?
YOU FEEL HOT, MANAGER-SAN? YOU'RE SWEATING A LOT
rattle
rattle rattle
squirm
squirm
SPEND BIG ON WHAT?

OH, THAT. I FELL OFF A MOTOR-BIKE LAST YEAR.
MY TOOTH?
HUH?
DID YOU LOSE YOUR TOOTH?
SOMEWHERE LIKE A TROPICAL ISLAND IN THE SOUTH NAH, MAYBE A TRIP INTO OUTER SPACE WOULD BE MORE FUN
MAYBE A VACATION I WANT TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS
roll
roll

SLAM
YES! MY HANDS ARE FREE!
clang
thud

GRAB
snatch
.....
slide

THEY NEARLY FELL AND BROKE ON THE FLOOR.
LUCKY I CAUGHT YOUR GLASSES IN TIME.
DON'T BE SILLY, MANAGER-SAN.
YOU SEE, THE EMERGENCY BUZZER IS ALREADY OUT OF ACTION, PLUS WE SWITCHED THE VIDEO FEED OF YOUR SURVEIL-LANCE CAMERA.
IS THIS HOW YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET THIS FAR?
WHO ORDERED YOU TO DO THIS?

I DON'T TAKE ORDERS I ONLY WORK FREELANCE.
AHH I GET IT- YOU BEEN FIDGETY FOR A WHILE, HUH?
YOU HURT SOMEWHERE? CAN'T YOU GET UP?
pull
UGH!
YOU DIDN'T NEED TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT IF YOU JUST WANTED TO BE TAKEN TO THE TOILET!
HEY, HOW ABOUT YOU PEE IN THIS BOTTLE?
YOU MUST BE CRAZY!

JUST PUT UP WITH ME AS A PRIVATE NURSE. YOU'LL ONLY FEEL WORSE IF YOU REFUSE MY HELP! HERE, GO ON! PEE IN THE BOTTLE!
Y-YOU MORON! I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
WHAT ARE YOU SHY FOR? IT'S JUST US GUYS HERE!
AH!
UGH!
AAH...
tremble tremble
.....
YOU FEEL BETTER?
W-WHY ARE YOU... A BANK ROBBER... BEING SO KIND TO ME?
I TOLD YOU JUST NOW, DIDN'T I?
DON'T THINK OF ME AS SOME GUY WHO'S ROBBING THE BANK.
RIGHT NOW I'M YOUR PRIVATE NURSE
DON'T FOOL AROUND DOWN THERE...
I WAS SO SURE YOU'D HIT ME... WHEN I TRIED TO ESCAPE WHY DIDN'T YOU?

MANAGER-SAN ARE YOU THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'D HAVE NO PROBLEM HITTING A LADY PARTNER?
OF COURSE NOT
WELL, I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
EXCEPT I JUST HAPPEN TO BE GAY
IS THAT WHY?
HUH? WHY WHAT?
WHY YOU DIDN'T REPLACE YOUR MISSING TOOTH?
AHA! IS THAT WHY YOU BEEN GIVING ME FUNNY LOOKS? DO YOU FIND THAT A TURN-ON?
FOR SOME STRANGE REASON YOU FIND ME ATTRACTIVE HUH?
DO YOU LIKE SEXY MACHO GUYS?
NO— NOT USUALLY—
I'M NOT LIKE YOU MANAGER-SAN
I'M NO GENTLEMAN I'M A BIT LEWD AND CRUDE
I-I LIKE THE FEEL OF YOUR HANDS— ROAMING OVER ME—
IT— IT FEELS GOOD SO GOOD—
YOU CONFUSED BY YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME, MANAGER-SAN?
I— I'M—

YEAH I MEAN...
THEY'RE TOO SLEAZY.
YOU HATE GUYS WITH MISSING TEETH?

NGH!
UH...
NO!
YOU'RE FILTHY DOWN THERE!
BUT JUST NOW YOU...
AH!
shove
twitch
twitch
UGH!
AAH...
MMF!
UGH!
MMF!
twitch
AH...
AH!
gulp
gulp

quiver
quiver
AH!
AAH!
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY BREACH IN PROGRESS!

WEE WOO WEE WOO
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY BREACH IN PROGRESS!
WEE WOO WEE WOO
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY BREACH IN PROGRESS!
WEE WOO WEE WOO
WEE WOO WEE WOO
KAZUYA!
DID YOU MESS UP, YUUICHI?
WHAM
WEE WOO
WELL, THE VAULT SUDDENLY OPENED WHILE I WAS FIXING THE HANDPRINT SENSOR!
ANYWAY, THIS IS ALL THE CASH I GRABBED FOR NOW
WEE WOO
BUT I FORGOT TO DEACTIVATE THE INFRA-RED MOTION SENSORS BEFORE GOING IN!
WHAT ABOUT THE TRANSACTION RECORDS?
WEE WOO
I GOT COPIES OF THE STATE-MENTS—
WAH!
THUD
pounce

QUICK! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
USE THAT POLE BEHIND YOU TO KNOCK HIM OUT!
OWW!
THE POLE...
CLANG
カラン

I CAN'T HIT SOMEONE WHO REFUSES TO HIT ME
W-WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU SAYING?!
MANAGER, THE GUY'S A BANK ROBBER!
YUUICHI...
Whomp
LEAVE THE MONEY
WE WERE ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR THE TRANSACTION RECORDS ONLY
I'M OKAY WITH GETTING OUR USUAL FEE FROM THOSE GUYS
YOU ARE? WELL, I DON'T GIVE A STUFF EITHER WAY. I ONLY DO THIS IN MY SPARE TIME.
YO!
WELL, LET'S SCRAM. THIS WAY SHOULD BE SAFE
pull pull
drag drag
HANG ON!
Wait

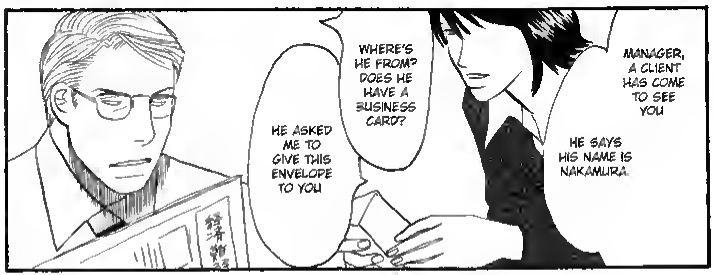
MY WIFE DISCOVERED MY SECRET STASH OF GAY PORN VIDEOS.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY MY WIFE AND I DIVORCED?
OH, THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ALL, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. .

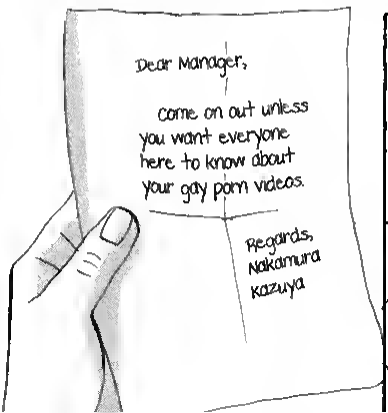
WEE WOO WEE WOO
STOMP
STOMP
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY BREACH IN PROGRESS!
WEE WOO WEE WOO
STOMP
STOMP
MANAGER!
WEE WOO WEE WOO
INTRUDER ALERT! SECURITY BREACH IN PROGRESS!
THE MANAGER'S HERE!
WEE WOO WEE WOO
MAYBE THE ROBBERS HAD A GETAWAY CAR!
ARE THE POLICE HERE YET?
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
THIS PLASTIC BOTTLE IS FULL OF WARM YELLOW LIQUID! WHAT COULD IT BE?
WE MUST GET A FORENSIC ANALYSIS ON IT!
N-NO! THAT'S MY TEA! I HAVEN'T FINISHED IT YET!
GIVE IT BACK!
WHERE ARE THE ROBBERS?
I'M ALL RIGHT.
MANAGER, ARE YOU INJURED?
THEY FLED THROUGH THE REAR EXIT.

NEKO
TOWN BANK
LEADING THE NEWS BULLETIN THIS HOUR
THE ARREST OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUSINESS COUNCIL AND FORMER DIET MEMBER, YAMADA, ON FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CHARGES
FOR MORE DETAILS, LET'S CROSS TO OUR REPORTER

YEAH, GOODNESS KNOWS WHY
MANAGER, IS IT TRUE THAT THEY RAN OFF WITHOUT TAKING ANY MONEY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE WERE A LOT OF FAR-FETCHED THEORIES ABOUT THAT BANK ROBBERY THE OTHER DAY...

YOU THINK SOMEONE HERE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT?
THEY SAY THAT TRANSACTION RECORDS FROM OUR BANK WERE THE MAIN SOURCE OF EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM.
WHO DO YOU THINK LEAKED THE DETAILS?
AN INFORMANT IN OUR BRANCH? THAT'S MALICIOUS GOSSIP!


MANAGER, A CLIENT HAS COME TO SEE YOU
HE SAYS HIS NAME IS NAKAMURA.
WHERE'S HE FROM? DOES HE HAVE A BUSINESS CARD?
HE ASKED ME TO GIVE THIS ENVELOPE TO YOU


Dear Manager,
come on out unless you want everyone here to know about your gay porn videos.
Regards,
Nakamura Kazuya

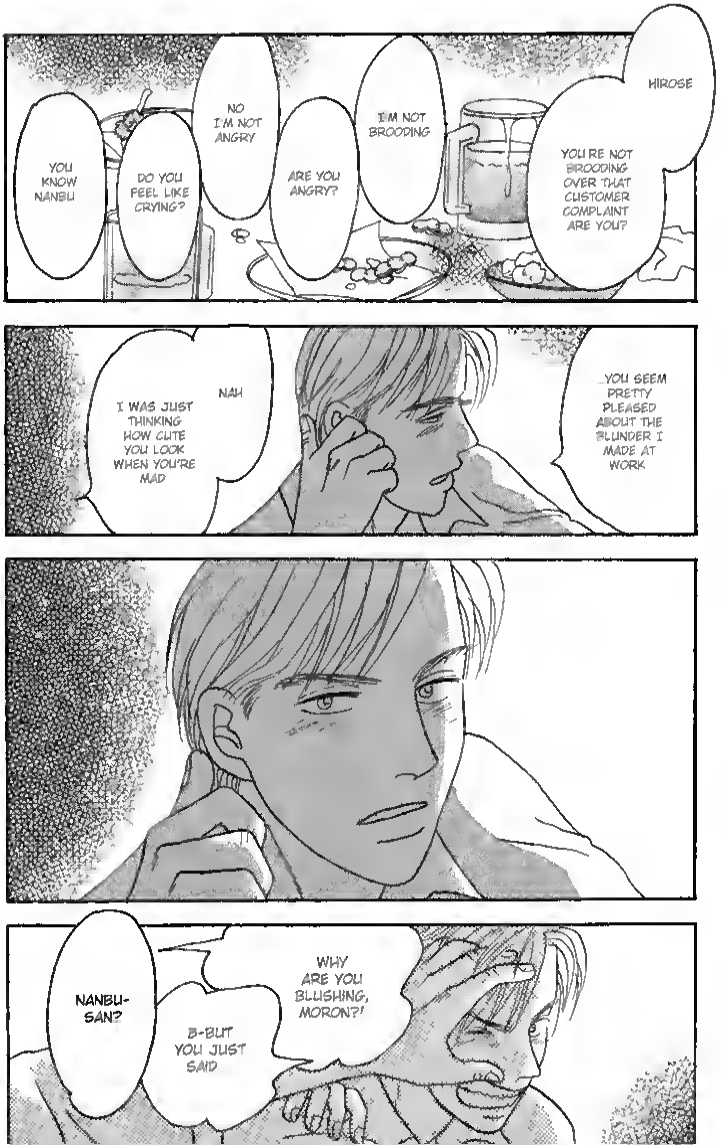
WELL... THE TRUTH BEHIND YOUR DIVORCE WAS TOO JUICY TO PASS UP...
HAVE YOU COME SO SOON TO BLACK-MAIL ME?
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE DRESSED UP LIKE A YOUNG PRESIDENT OF AN I.T. COMPANY!
SO YOU WANT A WHOPPING BIG FEE TO STAY SILENT...
...AND TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD... WHAT'S YOUR PRICE?
YOU MUST TELL ME HOW TO INVEST IT WISELY AND MAKE MORE MONEY
I THOUGHT OF TAKING A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD, BUT I'LL THINK ABOUT SAVING SOME OF IT TOO.
WITH THE WHOPPING BIG EXTORTION PAYMENT I'LL GET MY HANDS ON...
SO NOW WHAT? WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR DIRT ON ME?

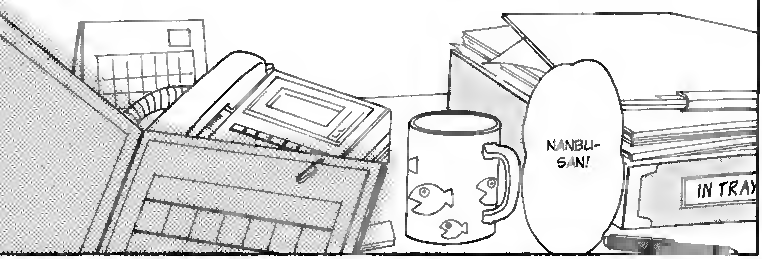
ONE MILLION YEN!
THAT'S BIG INDEED.
.end.

Ano Koro ni Modorenai

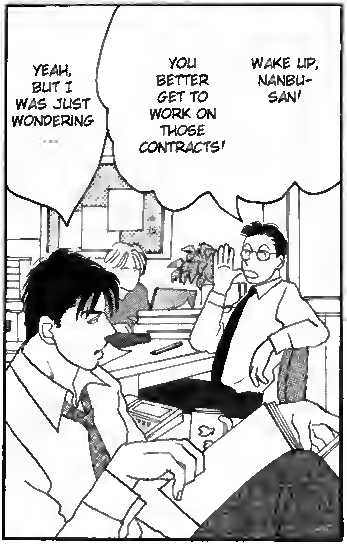
あの頃に戻れない

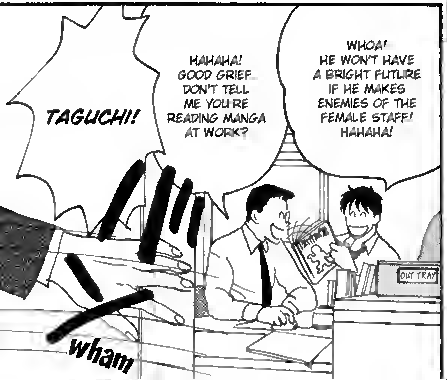
No Going Back to the Past

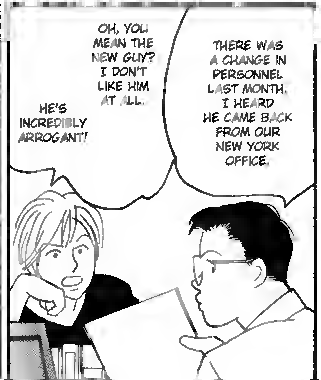

HIROSE
YOU'RE NOT BROODING OVER THAT CUSTOMER COMPLAINT ARE YOU?
I'M NOT BROODING
ARE YOU ANGRY?
NO I'M NOT ANGRY
DO YOU FEEL LIKE CRYING?
YOU KNOW NANBU
YOU SEEM PRETTY PLEASED ABOUT THE BLUNDER I MADE AT WORK
NAH
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW CUTE YOU LOOK WHEN YOU'RE MAD
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING, MORON?!
B-BUT YOU JUST SAID
NANBU-SAN?

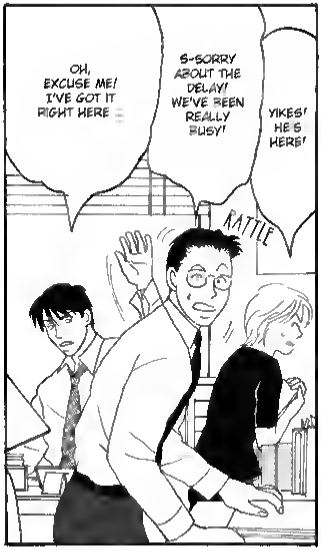

NANBU-SAN!
IN TRAY

IS HIROSE THE NAME OF OUR NEW MANAGER?
I USED TO WORK WITH A GUY WHO HAD THE SAME NAME.

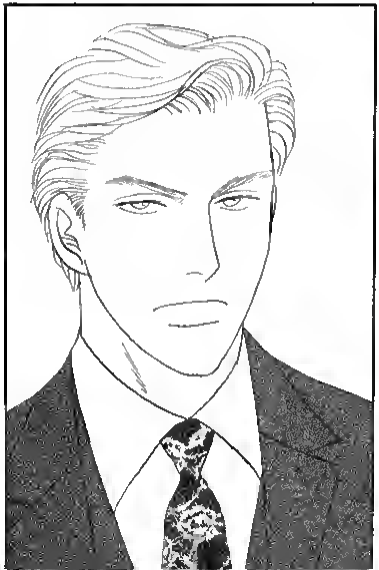

WAKE UP, NANBU-SAN!
YOU BETTER GET TO WORK ON THOSE CONTRACTS!
YEAH, BUT I WAS JUST WONDERING ...


TAGUCHI!!
HAHAHA! GOOD GRIEF. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE READING MANGA AT WORK?
WHOA! HE WON'T HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE IF HE MAKES ENEMIES OF THE FEMALE STAFF! HAHAHA!
OUT TRAY
wham


OH, YOU MEAN THE NEW GUY? I DON'T LIKE HIM AT ALL.
HE'S INCREDIBLY ARROGANT!
THERE WAS A CHANGE IN PERSONNEL LAST MONTH. I HEARD HE CAME BACK FROM OUR NEW YORK OFFICE.


OH, EXCUSE ME! I'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE
S-SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY! WE'VE BEEN REALLY BUSY!
YIKES! HE'S HERE!
RATTLE

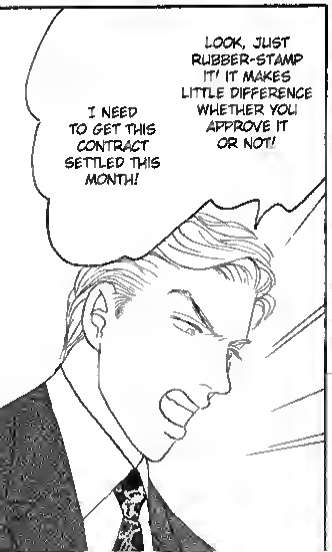
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
OUR ACCOUNTS CHIEF STILL HASN'T GOT HOLD OF THAT CONTRACT!



—HIROSE?

NEVER MIND THAT... WHY HASN'T THE CONTRACT BEEN HANDED IN YET?
OOPS! I GUESS I'M NOT ONE TO TALK.
HEY, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE RUDE! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A GRUMPY OLD MAN!

I WAS ASSIGNED HERE LAST MONTH AS PART OF THE CHANGE IN PERSONNEL. DIDN'T YOU READ THE NOTICE?
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE OUR NEW MANAGER!
SO IT IS YOU, HIROSE! WHEN DID YOU RETURN FROM NEW YORK?


I NEED TO GET THIS CONTRACT SETTLED THIS MONTH!
LOOK, JUST RUBBER-STAMP IT! IT MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHETHER YOU APPROVE IT OR NOT!

JUST RUBBER-STAMP IT. I'VE GOT A MEETING WITH THE ACCOUNTS CHIEF NOW.
I'LL GET ONTO IT IN A MINUTE.
YEAH, MY BAD. TAGUCHI LEFT THESE TEDIOUS DOCUMENTS WITH ME.
NO, I SHOULD REVIEW THESE FIGURES JUST IN CASE...

IF IT ISN'T PROCESSED IN TIME, I'LL PERSONALLY APOLOGIZE TO THE DIRECTOR MYSELF...
LIKE I SAID, IT'S MY FAULT THIS IS STILL PENDING

HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

YEAH, THAT'S HIM.
NANBU-SAN, ARE YOU SURE HE'S THE GUY YOU USED TO WORK WITH?
HE'S SCARY!
SLAM

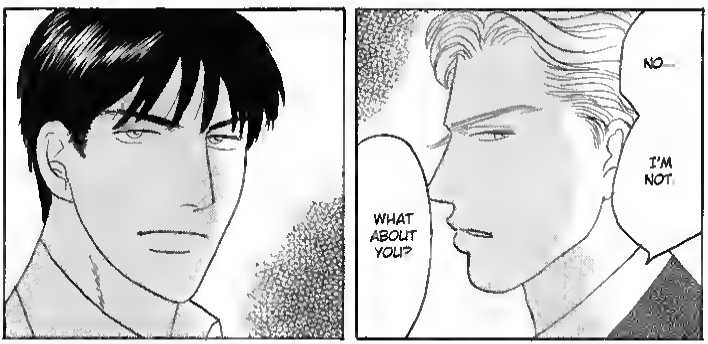
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS CONTRACT TO BE SUBMITTED LATE!
CLACK

WE HAD A DISPUTE WITH A SALES EXECUTIVE FROM THE OSAKA OFFICE IN THE PAST.
I CAN'T STAND HIM!
WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME TO GET USED TO A BOSS LIKE THAT!
AS I WAS JUST SAYING—
—THAT EXECUTIVE GAVE US A HARD TIME.
BUT IN THE END, I WAS PROVED RIGHT
NO WAY! YOU WERE THAT BRILLIANT A WORKER WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, HUH?
SO IS THAT HOW YOU GOT THE BIG PROMOTION INTO YOUR CURRENT JOB?
LAY OFF THE SARCASM, WILL YOU?
WAS HE THAT SCARY BACK THEN?
YEAH. HE WASN'T EASY TO GET ALONG WITH. ACTUALLY, HE WAS PRETTY INCOMPETENT MOST OF THE TIME—
RRRR
HELLO, SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT. WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLACE AN ORDER?
—BUT WHEN HE PUT ON THAT TOUGH GUY ACT—
HE LOOKED KINDA CUTE.

HIROSE!
I HANDED IN THAT CONTRACT!
YEAH, GOOD.
YOU'RE GOING HOME NOW AFTER A HARD DAY'S WORK. HUH? GOOD FOR YOU!
BUT THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SAY A FEW WORDS TO ME ON YOUR WAY OUT.
WELL...
I'LL MAKE SURE I LOOK UP YOUR NAME AS SOON AS I GET HOME.
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! YOU SAW MY NAME ON THE CONTRACT FROM THE SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?

BACK WHEN WE WERE IN SALES TOGETHER, I NEVER DID SELL ENOUGH. IN FACT, I MADE A HUGE LOSS!
I KNOW.
BUT I EXPECTED YOU TO EVENTUALLY RISE UP THE RANKS TO BE A MANAGER LIKE ME.
NAH, I'M FAIRLY COMFORTABLE IN MY CURRENT POSITION.

WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR AGES. LET'S GO FOR A DRINK.
WE CAN'T GO OUT TONIGHT. TOMORROW WE'VE GOT WORK.
SO ARE YOU MARRIED?


NO—
I'M NOT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

IT'S GETTING LATE...
I'VE HIRED A CLEANER.
IT'S TOUGH LIVING ON MY OWN THOUGH MY PLACE IS A COMPLETE MESS!
NAH, I RAN SCREAMING FROM THE BRINK OF MARRIAGE AND THAT WAS THAT
YEAH? SO WHERE DO YOU LIVE?
OH...
YEAH SURE...
WELL, SEE YOU LATER...
OOPS! I SHOULD MIND MY OWN BUSINESS. HUH?
I'M HEADING THIS WAY...
... HE WOULD NEVER TALK ABOUT ANYTHING OTHER THAN WORK
I'D FORGOTTEN THE WAY...

あの頃に戻れない

I'D GET BLIND DRUNK
WHILE HE SLEPT LIKE A LOG IN THE HOTEL LOBBY INSTEAD OF GOING BACK TO OUR ROOM
WHEN WE SHARED A HOTEL ROOM DURING A BUSINESS TRIP,
HE JUST TALKED ABOUT WORK AS IF HE WAS OBSESSED BY IT
WE NEVER SPOKE TO EACH OTHER ABOUT ANY-THING OTHER THAN WORK
WE HAD NO INTERESTS IN COMMON WE LED COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIVES
HE'D INTIMIDATE ME WITH THAT STRANGE LOOK HE'D GIVE ME
DEEP DOWN IT MADE ME AFRAID

THAT NEW MANAGER MUST BE UNDER THE ILLUSION HE OWNS THE COMPANY HUH?
HE TREATS THE REST OF US LIKE GARBAGE!
I CAN'T SEE HIM CHANGING FOR THE BETTER EITHER
HIROSE, DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
I'M BUSY.
THIS IS IMPORTANT.
IF IT'S ABOUT THE PAPERWORK, THEN GET BACK TO WORK.
YOU SHOULD CALL ME IN ADVANCE TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT.
CHACK
THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THIS CONTRACT. THE FIGURES FOR THIS MONTH ARE FAR TOO HIGH.
WHAT?!

FINE! I'LL GO TALK TO THE ACCOUNTS CHIEF MYSELF!
I CAN'T DO THAT.
HIROSE!
THE DATES AREN'T CONSISTENT IT'LL BE CAUGHT DURING THE AUDIT.
THE MERGER WON'T GO AHEAD AS SCHEDULED IF WE DON'T INCLUDE THOSE FIGURES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, SO LEAVE IT AS IS.
THEN CHANGE THE DATES.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE HERE SHARES THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY.
REVIEW THE SCHEDULE FOR THE MERGER. EVERYONE'S COMPLAINING ABOUT IT.
IT'S MY RESPONSIBILITY.
DON'T TRY TO DO ALL THE WORK BY YOURSELF.

ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME HOW TO DO MY JOB?
REMEMBER YOUR POSITION IN THIS FIRM.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE THE ONE TAKING ORDERS FROM ME AT THE MOMENT?
HIROSE ..
I'LL BE HANDING IN THIS CONTRACT NEXT MONTH. YOU CAN APOLOGIZE TO THE CHIEF FOR ME.
SO THIS WILL MAKE US EVEN.
YOU STILL OWE ME, DON'T YOU?
DO YOU RECALL HOW YOU GOT A SALES QUOTE WRONG IN THE PAST?
I HAD TO GO BACK AND OFFER A GROVELING APOLOGY TO THE CLIENT ON YOUR BEHALF.

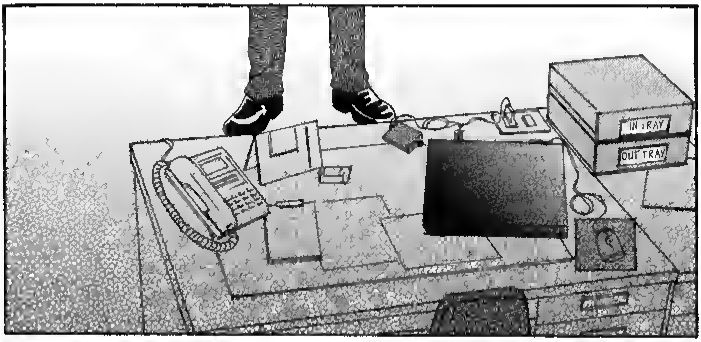
I COULDN'T MATCH YOUR EVERY MOVE BACK THEN...
NANBU...
ARE YOU HAPPY IN YOUR CURRENT JOB?

WELL,
GOOD FOR YOU!
YOU ACHIEVED YOUR GOAL!
YET I OVERTOOK YOU TO REACH MY GOAL

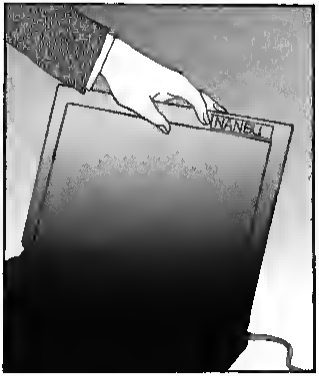
clack
WHY WOULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
...GIVE A DAMN...
...ABOUT ME, ANYWAY?

AT FIRST I WAS RELIEVED WHEN I WAS HIRED BY A MAJOR FIRM
SPORTS
YEAH, I'M HAPPY ENOUGH
ARE YOU HAPPY IN YOUR CURRENT JOB?

I COULD NEVER SEE MYSELF
WHY WAS I SO CRAZY ABOUT HIM?
BUT WHY WAS I SO FASCINATED BY HIM?
...AS I WAS IN THE PAST
...BEING THAT CRAZY ABOUT ANYONE...


IN TRAY
OUT TRAY

beep
hum


PANEL

T.NANBU

stomp stomp
HIROSE, ARE YOU IN THERE?
wham

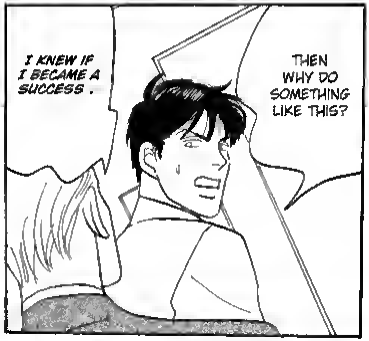
slide
ROOM IN USE
COME HERE!
I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
COME HERE A MINUTE!
SLAM
バタン
MEETING ROOM 104
ROOM IN USE
WHO KNOWS. THE SYSTEM SOMEHOW MANAGED TO SUBMIT IT TO THE CHIEF, DIDN'T IT?
WHO KEYED IN MY SIGNATURE?!
IT WAS YOU!
YOUR OPINION DOESN'T COUNT FOR MUCH. THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS
THE ACCOUNTS CHIEF IS ALREADY DEALING WITH IT
I NEVER KEYED IN MY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE!
WHO THE HELL SIGNED OFF ON THAT CONTRACT?

THE MERGER MUST PROCEED AS SCHEDULED—
IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL IT?!
YOU GUYS SIMPLY SIT AROUND CRUNCHING NUMBERS. BUT IT'S MY JOB TO PUT THAT MONEY TO WORK!
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF? DON'T GET WORKED UP OVER MINOR DETAILS
YOU STOLE MY PASSWORD! YOU KEYED IN MY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE!
SLAP

ARE YOU ASKING ME TO ENGAGE IN DISHONEST CONDUCT?!
IS IT, HIROSE?
THIS MUST BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE DONE THIS!
I WANT AN ANSWER!
YES...
...IT'S MY FIRST TIME.
grab
グシャ

I'LL PRETEND IT'S MY MISTAKE.
I ALREADY ALTERED THE DATES.
NANBU...

NANBU?
I'LL SUBMIT IT NEXT MONTH AS USUAL.
TALK TO THE CHIEF AND GET IT BACK TO ME.


I KNEW IF I BECAME A SUCCESS .
THEN WHY DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

DON'T BOTHER. YOUR INPUT ALWAYS BRINGS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
I'LL DO IT, BUT LET ME EXPLAIN THE WHOLE STORY!
LISTEN! FORGET THAT!

YOU WERE SUCH A STRONG, GOOD-LOOKING GUY BACK THEN!
...YOU'D NEVER TAKE ME SERIOUSLY, WOULD YOU?
IN THE PAST I WAS ATTRACTED TO YOU!

DID YOU EVER FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME?
DO YOU THINK..
..I'M SO BAD-LOOKING NOW?
YOU'RE STILL..

THUD
huff
UH...
AAH...
huff
THUNK
slide

I CAN'T HOLD BACK ANY LONGER!
I NEED TO BE INSIDE YOU!
I NEED TO DO THIS!
huff
puff
SHIT...
I DON'T KNOW IF WE SHOULD BE DOING THIS...
Slide
THEN DO IT!
OF COURSE!
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?
UGH!
OW!
WHO ELSE... WOULD I DO THIS WITH? YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY...

OH...
AH!
GO ON!
UH DON'T SQUIRM!
JUST DO IT!
NANBU
COME HERE!
UGH!
shiver
NGH!
shiver
LIFT
huff
DOES THIS FEEL GOOD?
huff
huff
WHAT ARE YOU...
AH!
thrust
WHOA!
HUH?
huff

thrust
thrust
HANG ON A MINUTE!
YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU'RE ALREADY INSIDE ME!
STOP THAT! YOU'RE HITTING A SENSITIVE SPOT!
YOU MEAN HERE?
KOCK
AAAH!
LIKE THIS?
KOCK
AH!
AAH!
RATTLE
AH...
RATTLE
.....

HIROSE.
DID YOU WANT ME TO DO THIS BACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND GOOD-LOOKING?
YOU WEREN'T GOOD-LOOKING BACK THEN, AND YOU'RE NO BETTER NOW.
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO ME.
NO, I DIDN'T

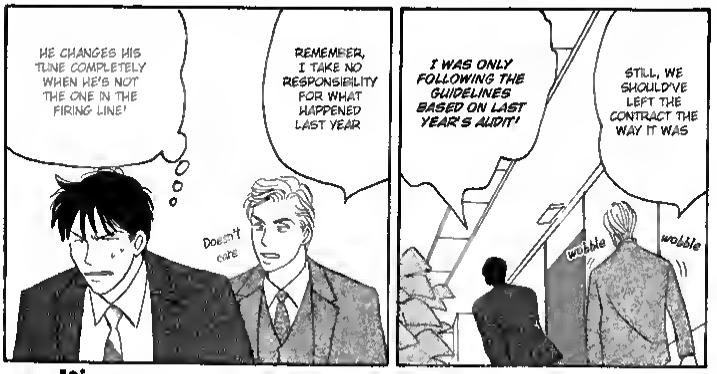
—IF I QUIT WORKING FOR THIS COMPANY?
WOULD YOU FIND ME LESS ATTRAC-TIVE—

—BUT LOOKS AREN'T THAT IMPORTANT TO ME.
WELL, MAYBE I AM STILL A BIT ATTRACTED TO YOU TODAY—

ONCE I'M RICH AND SUCCESSFUL IN THIS NEW JOB I'LL MAKE YOU FALL FOR ME ALL OVER AGAIN
STILL, I MIGHT BE OVERWHELMED BY THE WORKLOAD AND FAIL A SECOND TIME
A GUY I USED TO KNOW IN UNI HAS INVITED ME TO JOIN HIS NEW CONSULTING FIRM, BUT I'VE BEEN SCARED ABOUT SAILING INTO UNCHARTED WATERS
HOWEVER, I'VE GOT A GOOD GRASP OF CASHFLOW BY NOW AFTER WORKING HERE IN THE ACCOUNTS SECTION
GO AHEAD AND DO WHAT YOU WANT.
I'LL STILL LOVE YOU...
...ANYWHERE AND ANYTIME
...BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU, NANBU
I'LL STILL BE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU IF THINGS DON'T WORK OUT.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT A BOSSY, DOMINEERING GUY LIKE YOU IS REALLY CRAZY ABOUT ME TOO?

WOW! YOU'RE BLUSHING! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT!
HOW CUTE!
WHEN DID I EVER SAY THAT?!
LET GO OF MY HAND! YOUR TOUCH MAKES ME SICK!
SHUT UP! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME A GRUMPY OLD MAN!

I WON'T WAIT FOR HIM TO SACK ME WHEN THIS DAMN MERGER IS FINALIZED! I'D RATHER HAND IN MY RESIGNATION FIRST!
SHIT! ALL THE CHIEF DID WAS TELL ME OFF!
ACCOUNTS CHIEF


HE CHANGES HIS TUNE COMPLETELY WHEN HE'S NOT THE ONE IN THE FIRING LINE!
REMEMBER, I TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENED LAST YEAR
Doesn't care
I WAS ONLY FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES BASED ON LAST YEAR'S AUDIT!
STILL, WE SHOULD'VE LEFT THE CONTRACT THE WAY IT WAS
wobble
wobble

.end.

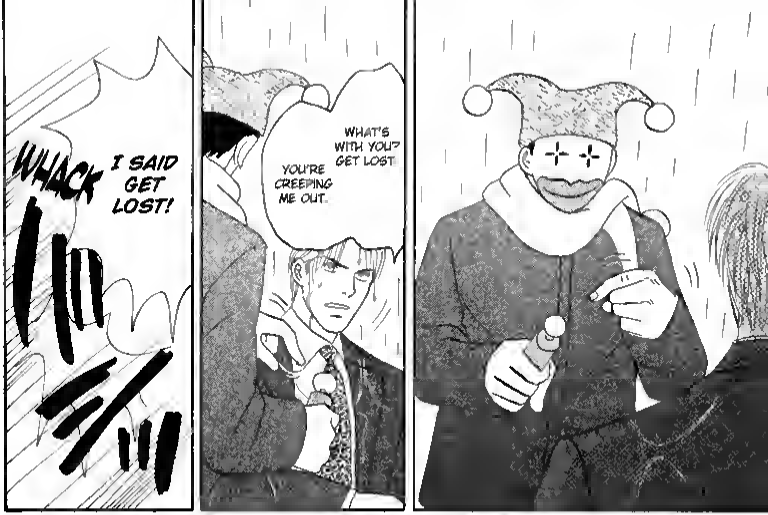
Mune Ippai no

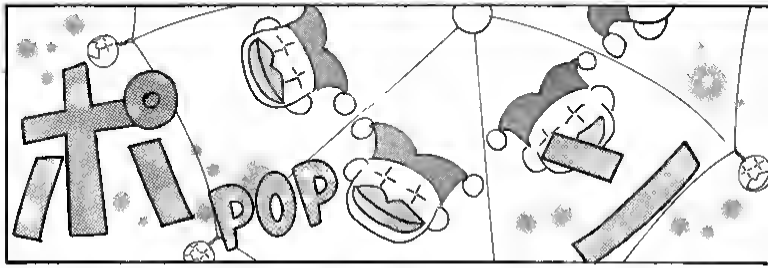
胸いっぱいの

Wholehearted

ARE YOU GOING TO GET MARRIED?
ME GET MARRIED? NO WAY!
BUT A GUY IN YOUR POSITION MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO SETTLE DOWN.
YOU MUST LOOK RESPECTABLE, RIGHT?
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE BREAKING UP WITH ME?
LOOK, I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM BEING YOUR BOYFRIEND ON THE SIDE
AS LONG AS YOU LOVED ME
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE YOU DO ANYMORE,
I SIMPLY FIND YOU... TOO INTIMIDATING NOW.
AND THERE'S NO TURNING BACK THE CLOCK
I'LL RETURN YOUR KEYS.
rattl

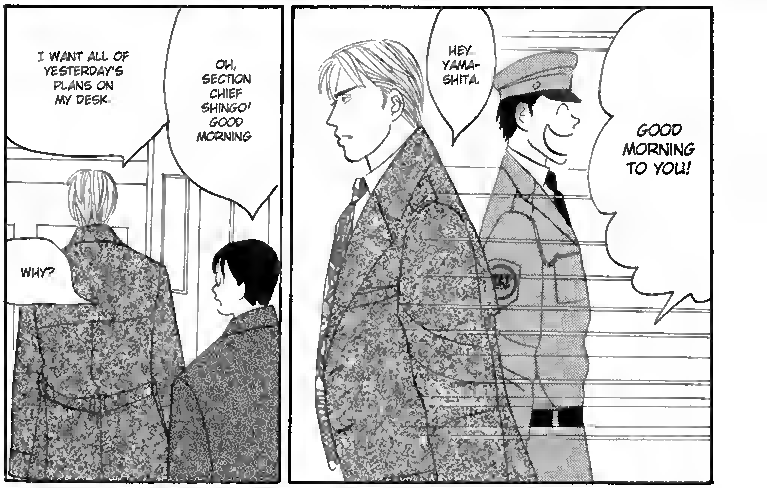
YEAH...
KACHIK
BYE BYE, SHINGO.


WHACK
I SAID GET LOST!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? GET LOST.
YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT.


POP

YOU'LL TURN BACK INTO A NORMAL PERSON LIKE ME IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN THE RAIN
NO, YOU USE IT.
THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DANCE AND JUGGLE ANYMORE. WHICH WOULD BE A GREAT SHAME

GOOD MORNING TO YOU!
GOOD MORNING!
GOOD MORNING TO YOU!
GOOD MORNING THERE!
THAT SECURITY GUARD IS ALWAYS SO CHEERFUL
JUST SEEING HIM BRIGHTENS MY DAY

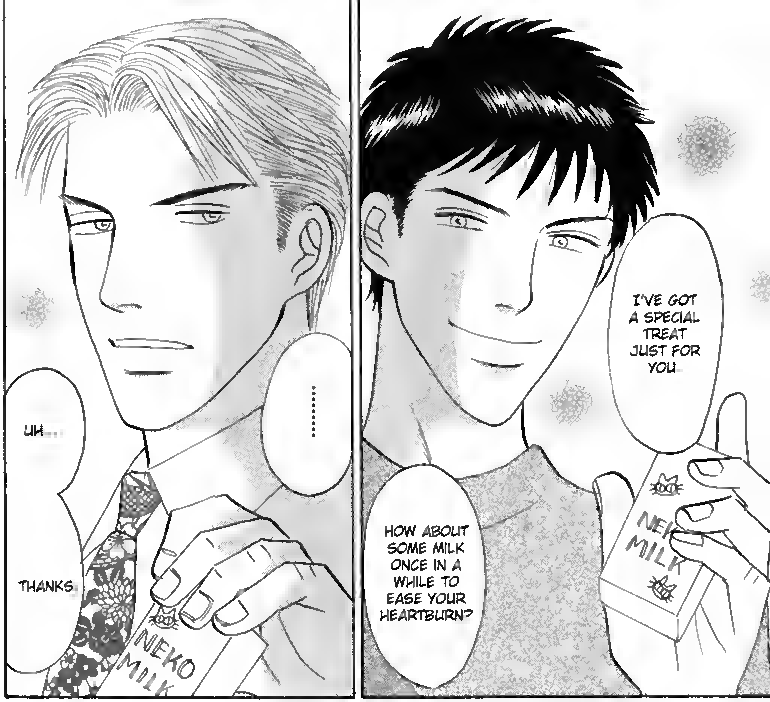

HEY, YAMA-SHITA.
GOOD MORNING TO YOU!
OH, SECTION CHIEF SHINGO! GOOD MORNING
I WANT ALL OF YESTERDAY'S PLANS ON MY DESK.
WHY?

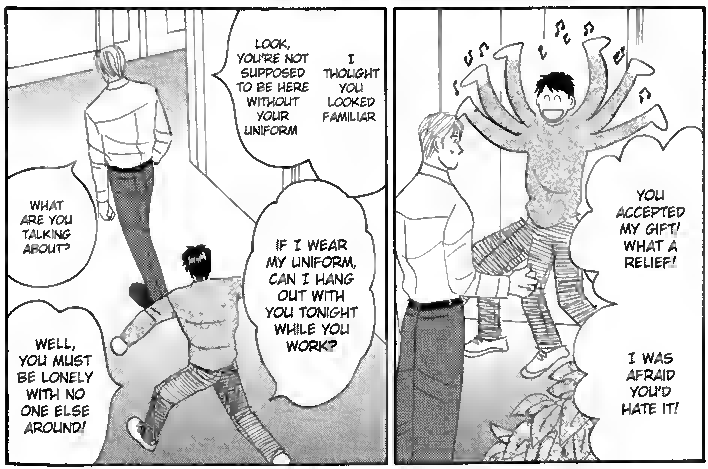
B-BUT I—
JUST GET IT ON MY DESK!
F-FORGIVE ME I'LL REWRITE IT AT ONCE
I NOTICED A COUPLE OF FIGURES DIDN'T TALLY UP PROPERLY
I CAN'T TRUST YOU I'LL WRITE IT UP MYSELF
HE ONLY CHANGED AFTER HIS SUDDEN PROMOTION TO SECTION CHIEF HERE
BUT HE WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN HE WORKED IN THE ADMINISTRATION SECTION
THERE WAS NO NEED TO YELL AT YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE ELSE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
HE'S GOT A FOUL TEMPER, PERIOD!
UGH! LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A FOUL MOOD TODAY!

GOOD MORNING, SIR!
GOOD MORNING!
kachik CLACK
GOOD MORNING THERE!
BZZZ

YOU DRINK A LOT OF COFFEE, HUH? ALWAYS BLACK? VERY MATURE OF YOU!
ACTUALLY, I PREFER FRUIT JUICE!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D DRINK COFFEE, EVEN WITH MILK AND SUGAR!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! GREET OTHERS WHEN YOU SEE THEM!
YOU'LL CHEER THEM UP SO MUCH THEY'LL GREET YOU BACK!
MORNING.
I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR SECURITY FIRM
THEIR STAFF SHOULDN'T WASTE THEIR TIME CHATTING DURING WORK HOURS
INUI KAZUYA, SIR!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
REVIEW THIS PAGE AS WELL
DELETE A BIT MORE FROM PARAGRAPH TWO...
MY APOLOGIES, SIR. YOU'LL HAVE IT BY TOMORROW.
IF YOU'VE GOT TIME FOR A COFFEE BREAK, THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED THIS PLAN ALREADY?
OH, DIRECTOR!
KACHIK
11

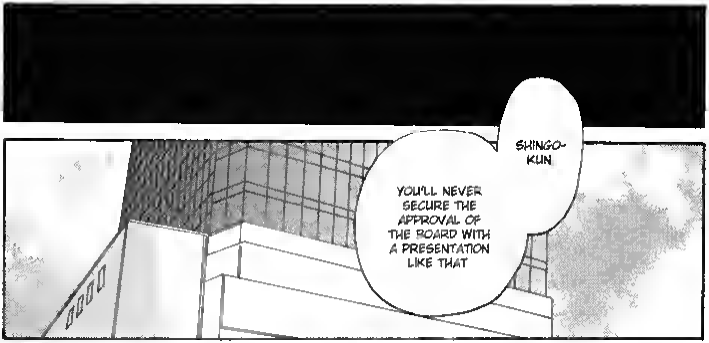
-BELCH-
I'LL GET THE JOB DONE, SIR
DO YOUR BEST I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO DELIVER OUR BUDGET FOR NEXT QUARTER
GOOD EVENING TO YOU!
ARE YOU ON THE EVENING SHIFT TONIGHT?
NO. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO HOME TOO!
HMPH!
.....
GOOD EVENING TO YOU!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME
COFFEE
KACHIK
CLACK
poke
ARE YOU WORKING OVERTIME TONIGHT?
KACHIK


I'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT JUST FOR YOU
HOW ABOUT SOME MILK ONCE IN A WHILE TO EASE YOUR HEARTBURN?
NEKO MILK
.....
UH...
THANKS.
NEKO MILK

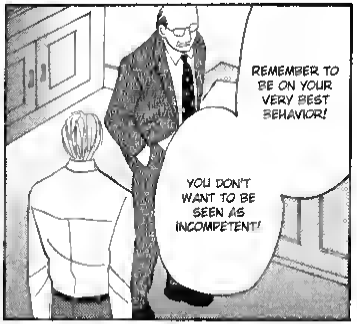

I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED FAMILIAR
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE WITHOUT YOUR UNIFORM
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IF I WEAR MY UNIFORM, CAN I HANG OUT WITH YOU TONIGHT WHILE YOU WORK?
WELL, YOU MUST BE LONELY WITH NO ONE ELSE AROUND!
YOU ACCEPTED MY GIFT! WHAT A RELIEF!
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D HATE IT!

twirl
twirl
KEEP QUIET OR GET OUT.
YOU'LL GO CRAZY IF YOU STAY UP THIS LATE EVERY NIGHT!
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP?
IF I DO EXACTLY AS YOU SAY...
CREAK
IF I KEEP QUIET, MAY I STAY?
... MAY I STAY WITH YOU?

2007. OCTOBER


SHINGO-KUN.
YOU'LL NEVER SECURE THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD WITH A PRESENTATION LIKE THAT

LET ME SEE THOSE PAPERS FIRST. I'LL CHECK THEM OVER NOW.
I'LL RING THEM ABOUT THESE THREE ITEMS AT ONCE
THOSE APPROVAL DOCUMENTS SHOULD COME THROUGH TODAY, CHIEF SHINGO.


REMEMBER TO BE ON YOUR VERY BEST BEHAVIOR!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN AS INCOMPETENT!

F-FORGIVE ME. IT'S MY FAULT.
I'LL DO IT AT ONCE
NEVER MIND! I'LL GO TO MY OFFICE!
WHO'S THE LAST ONE TO USE THIS COMPUTER?!
LOG OFF WHEN YOU LEAVE THE TERMINAL!
SLAM
CRASH

EVEN IF I'M IMPOTENT? EVEN IF I CAN'T GET IT UP?
NO, DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'RE TIRED, THAT'S ALL!
B-BUT I'M NOT JUST HERE FOR SEX...
IT'S FINE BY ME IF WE JUST SLEEP TOGETHER.
TRY SAYING THAT ONE MORE TIME!
I'M SORRY I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN
.....
I'M SORRY!
バカ!!
PUNCH
DON'T EVER TRY TO REASSURE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN!
I DON'T NEED YOUR PITY! I'M NOT THAT DESPERATE!

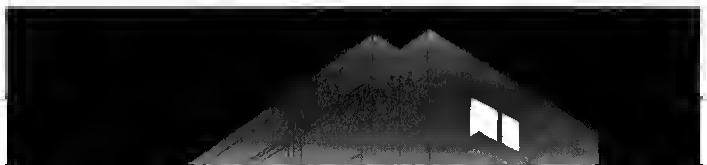
SNEAK
HMPH!

SORRY, BUT I'M GOING TO BE BUSY FOR A WHILE.
HEY, SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT! SAKURA?
WE'RE ALL FULLY OCCUPIED AT THE MOMENT

.....

SOMEONE MAKE TWENTY COPIES OF THIS!
I'LL BE THERE SOON
CHIEF SHINGO, THE DIRECTOR WANTS TO SEE YOU

I SAY HE SHOULD GO AND MAKE THOSE COPIES HIMSELF!
HMPH! WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?
DOES HE THINK HE CAN ORDER US AROUND LIKE DOGS?



...TREATS ME LIKE AN IDIOT!
TO HELL WITH THEM!
EVERY ONE OF THOSE BASTARDS ..
I...
I STILL LOVE YOU, SHINGO-SAN!
IT'S..
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CARE FOR...
DON'T TALK CRAP!
whack
ANY MAN! ADMIT IT!
LIAR!
YOU PICK UP THE NEAREST MAN AVAILABLE! YOU SLEEP WITH ANY MAN YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON!
IT'S TRUE
YOU'RE REALLY THE ONLY ONE...
.....

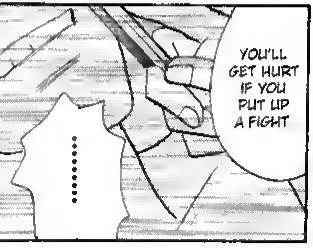
SHINGO-SAN,
ARE YOU GOING TO WORK ON SUNDAY? YOU NEED TO TAKE A REST.
SHINGO-SAN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
T-TAKE A REST?
tremble
I MUST GO TO WORK..
A REST WON'T HELP ME..
WHO SAYS I NEED A REST..?
WORK..

dizzy
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
EVERY-THING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
DRINK THIS, SHINGO-S, N. THIS WILL CALM YOU DOWN.
I'M GOING TO BE LATE...
WORK
SHAKE
SHAKE
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO SUFFER ANYMORE

MM...
W-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
OH, SO YOU'RE AWAKE?
WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
UNTIE ME, MORON!
I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU HIT ME, SHINGO-SAN.
I-IT WAS WRONG OF ME! I HAVEN'T BEEN MYSELF LATELY!
B-BUT THAT'S...
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT THAT UPSET ABOUT BEING HIT

YOUR WORK IS HAVING A BAD EFFECT ON YOU, THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU, AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN YOUR LIFE
THAT'S WHY YOU MUSTN'T GO TO WORK
I KNOW DEEP DOWN YOU'RE A NICE GUY, SHINGO-SAN,
BUT YOUR HEART'S BEEN DAMAGED AND BROKEN.
SO IT OCCURRED TO ME...

YOU MORON! W-WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
THAT ONCE YOU QUIT WORK, YOU'LL GO BACK TO BEING A NICE GUY
I WON'T HURT YOU. I WAS JUST WONDERING WHETHER SHAVING OFF YOUR HAIR OR EYEBROWS... WOULD MAKE YOU STAY AT HOME LIKE A GOOD BOY.
D-DON'T!

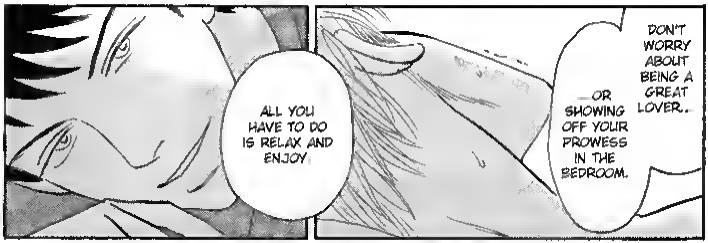

YOU'LL GET HURT IF YOU PUT UP A FIGHT.
.....

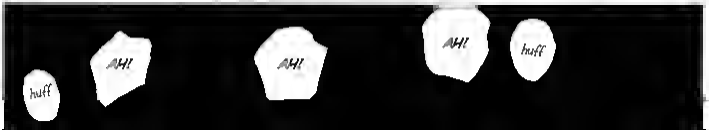
UNTIE ME, DAMMIT!
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT. I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
ONCE YOU TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN TO MUSIC AND LOOK AT FLOWERS, I'M SURE YOU'LL REMEMBER HOW TO LAUGH AGAIN.

DON'T DO THIS... PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!
I...
I WON'T GO TO WORK!
DO YOU LIKE WORK SO MUCH?
I'M SORRY BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU CRY
I JUST WANTED TO BE GENTLE WITH YOU...
...AND MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED...
...BUT NOW I'VE GONE TOO FAR, HUH?
NO WONDER

YOU'RE THE ONE I TRULY...

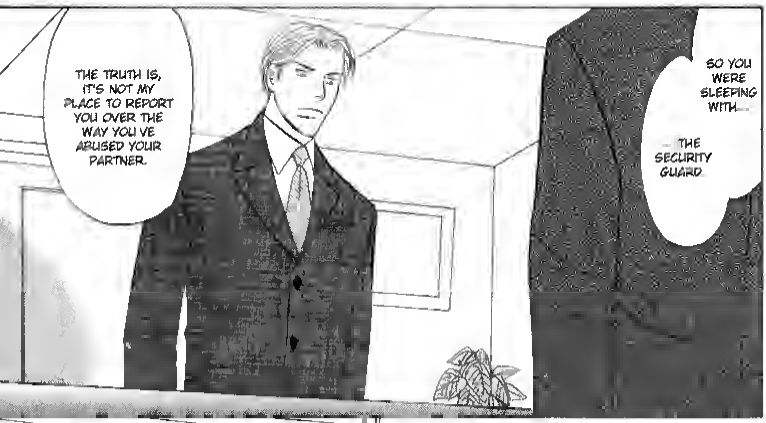
SHUDDER
IT'S ALL RIGHT. THIS WON'T HURT
I'M JUST MAKING YOU FEEL GOOD


DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING A GREAT LOVER...
...OR SHOWING OFF YOUR PROWESS IN THE BEDROOM.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS RELAX AND ENJOY.

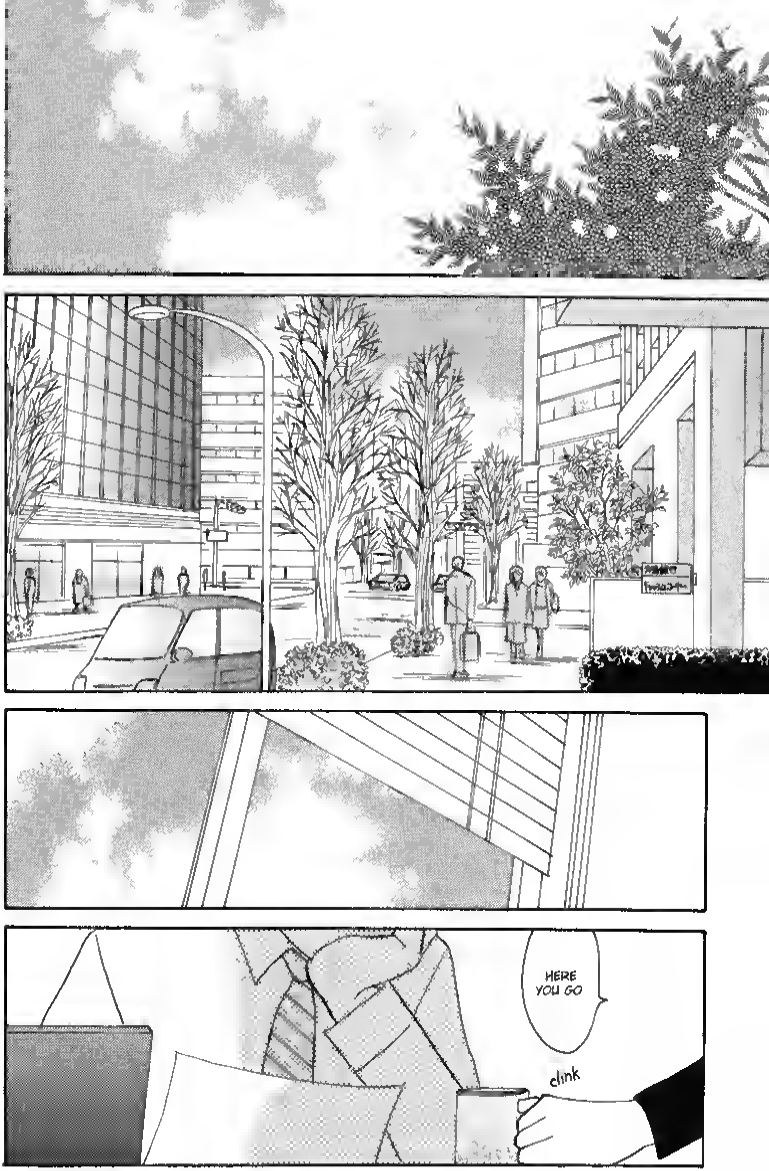

huff
AH!
AH!
AH!
huff

AAH!
AAH!
AH...
AAH.
.....
huff
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL CLEAN YOU UP
YOU HAVE A GOOD NIGHT NOW..
DID YOU ENJOY IT?
huff
GOOD NIGHT.

SLAP


SO YOU WERE SLEEPING WITH...
...THE SECURITY GUARD.
THE TRUTH IS, IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO REPORT YOU OVER THE WAY YOU'VE ABUSED YOUR PARTNER.

I'VE SEEN HOW YOU'VE BEEN AT WORK LATELY.
I THINK IT'S BEST THAT WE MOVE YOU TO ANOTHER SECTION.
I HEARD THAT HE HANDED IN HIS NOTICE YESTERDAY.
THAT BASTARD!
NEITHER IS IT MY PLACE TO ADVISE YOU ON YOUR PRIVATE LIFE...
...BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE A SHORT VACATION.


HERE YOU GO
clink

GOOD GRIEF! IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A YOUNG GUY STARTS HERE?
HEY, HANG ON! I HEARD THAT!
IT'S BECAUSE SHINGO-SAN ALWAYS HELPS ME WITH MY WORK!
DON'T LET THE OTHERS KNOW ABOUT THIS
OH, THANKS
YOU REALLY SEEM A LOT HAPPIER NOWADAYS, SHINGO-SAN.
LONG TIME NO SEE, YAMASHITA HERE, ALL DONE.
DID YOU THINK I'D BE DEPRESSED AFTER BEING KICKED OUT OF THE DATA SECTION?
EXCUSE ME, IT'S THE DATA SECTION HERE.
I SHOULD WARN YOU THAT ITOU-SAN'S HUSBAND WORKS HERE TOO
SORRY, GUYS! IT'S DELICIOUS! HEY, WHY DON'T I TAKE A PHOTO OF IT FOR YOU?
YES, I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU BACK AGAIN.
BE SURE TO WAIT FOR ME, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO WORK MY WAY BACK UP ON MY OWN MERITS.

I SHOULD HAVE LUNCH WITH THE OTHERS ONCE IN A WHILE.
NEXT TIME I'LL INVITE THEM OUT.
HM...
IT'S WARM FOR FALL, HUH?

A YEAR AGO,
I FORGOT TO THANK YOU...
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
YOU REMEMBER ME? THAT'S GREAT
bow
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE ANOTHER GUY I NEED TO THANK AS WELL
THANK YOU.
...FOR OFFERING ME YOUR UMBRELLA.

I WANT HIM BACK AGAIN.
THERE'S A WHOLE LOT MORE, BUT I CAN'T SAY IT HERE.
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM.
NOT JUST THANK...
WE'VE GOT UNRESOLVED ISSUES TOO... BUT I OWE HIM AN APOLOGY MOST OF ALL.
WILL HE RETURN TO ME?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WILL HE...
...FORGIVE ME AND TAKE ME BACK?
WHAT IF I WAIT?
HE WON'T BE LONG?
YOU'RE SURE?
DO I WAIT?
HE WON'T?
HUH? NO?

nod
I'LL BELIEVE YOU AND WAIT FOR HIM!
REALLY?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL BELIEVE YOU!

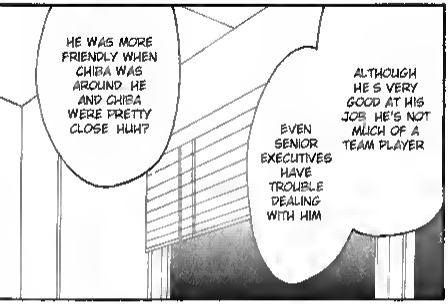
ARE YOU CRYING OR LAUGHING AT ME? WHICH IS IT?
DAMN! I'M MEANT TO BE BACK AT THE OFFICE BY NOW!
conk
conk
LIKE THIS?
LIKE THIS? SHIT! BUT YOU'VE GOT BETTER HAND-EYE COORDINATION THAN ME!
.end

Tsurete Itte Kure

連れていってくれ

Take Me With You

DESPITE THE GLOOMY FORECAST PRESENTED HERE...
...WE DON'T SHARE THIS PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE MARKET.
ガタ
rattle
OH, SHIMIZU!
ARE YOU GOING TO THE TOILET? COULD YOU BRING US COFFEE ON YOUR WAY BACK?
UH... NO I'M NOT.
I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW WE'VE ALREADY REACHED A DECISION, RIGHT?
REALLY? OH, IS THAT THE TIME?
I'LL SEE YOU ALL LATER


HE WAS MORE FRIENDLY WHEN CHIBA WAS AROUND. HE AND CHIBA WERE PRETTY CLOSE. HUH?
EVEN SENIOR EXECUTIVES HAVE TROUBLE DEALING WITH HIM
ALTHOUGH HE'S VERY GOOD AT HIS JOB, HE'S NOT MUCH OF A TEAM PLAYER

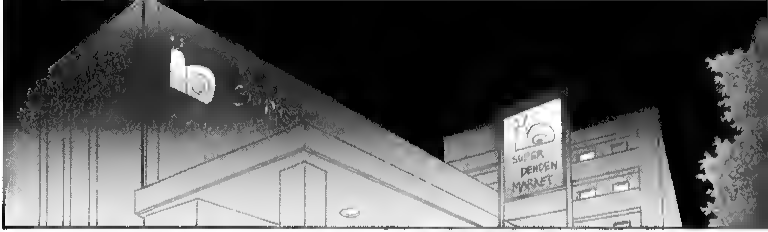
B-BUT WHAT ABOUT CHATTING WITH US NOW THE MEETING'S OVER?
HE'S IN A RUSH TO GO HOME FIRST!

I LEFT BEHIND MY MEMO
EXCUSE ME

wham
BUT THE WORKLOAD WAS TOO MUCH FOR CHIBA. IT TURNED HIM INTO A NERVOUS WRECK!

...CHIBA-SAN'S ON LEAVE BECAUSE HE'S UNWELL.
HE'S NOT A NERVOUS WRECK

OH, YEAH..
JUST SO YOU KNOW...



SALAD? YUCK! GEEZ DID YOU ORDER THIS?
LIKE A SALAD
I SHOULD PREPARE HIM SOMETHING NUTRITIOUS BEFORE I GO OFF TO WORK
HE DOESN'T EAT WELL NOW THAT HE'S LIVING ON HIS OWN

BUT YOU'RE ONLY GETTING THE PICKLED GINGER!
MORON! A MAN CAN'T LIVE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!
CHIBA-SAN, YOU CAN'T JUST ORDER GYUDON EVERY DAY! YOU NEED TO EAT A BALANCED DIET!
HERE! YOU CAN HAVE SOME OF MINE! EAT UP!

GYUDON bowl of rice topped with beef and onion
Often served with pickled ginger

HE SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T DRINK TOO MUCH
IF HE'D LIKE SOME LOW-MALT BEER AFTER DINNER
I WONDER
CHIBA-SAN?
ding dong
IT'S OPEN
AHA!
I'VE GOT A SPARE KEY
LUCKY FOR ME
kachik
WAIT A SEC I'LL SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS
CHIBA-SAN!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ZZZZ
I KNEW IT.
HE'S FAST ASLEEP.

SHEESH!
I ONLY WASHED YOUR FUTON LAST WEEK!
UH...
HUH...
SHIMIZU?

HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING AGAIN CHIBA-SAN?
HUH? DON'T BE SILLY... I QUIT ALCOHOL, REMEMBER?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT I MEANT TEA...
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SUIT?
I HAD A JOB INTERVIEW THIS MORNING
I DID MY BEST TO GO BACK TO MY NORMAL SLEEPING ROUTINE BUT I GUESS I SLEPT THROUGH THE AFTERNOON
WHAT INTER-VIEW?

I SAW AN AD IN THE PAPER
THIS FOOD COMPANY HAD A JOB VACANCY...
BUT YOU'RE ON SICK LEAVE AT THE MOMENT, CHIBA-SAN. AREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO YOUR OLD JOB?
I ALREADY QUIT.
IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO GO BACK THERE.
I CAN'T KEEP ON WORKING MYSELF TO THE BONE ANYMORE
EVENINGS ARE MEANT TO BE SPENT AT HOME. WEEKENDS ARE A TIME FOR REST AND RELAXATION
IF I CAN FIND A JOB THAT'S LESS STRESSFUL, I'LL BE ABLE TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY DAUGHTER MIKI
ARE YOU GOING BACK... ...TO YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER?
NAH, MY WIFE ALREADY...
OH, YEAH! SHE SENT ME A PHOTO OF MIKI!
rustle
HOLD ON. I LEFT MY CELL-PHONE HERE SOME-WHERE
TAKE A LOOK!
I PROMISED I'D BE THERE AT HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! I'VE GOT TO GET A JOB BY THEN OR ELSE I'LL BE AN EMBARRASS-MENT TO HER!
THAT'S NICE I'LL GO MAKE DINNER NOW

UM...
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED?
VSSH VSSH
clack
YOU CAN STILL GET DRUNK ON LOW-MALT BEER IF YOU GO OVERBOARD! YOU WERE CHUGGING THEM DOWN TOO FAST!
DID I FALL ASLEEP AGAIN?
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE, MORON!
I'M SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT FOR BUYING IT.
YOU DID TELL ME YOU WERE TRYING TO QUIT ALCOHOL.
YEAH... I DRANK TOO MUCH AGAIN.
KEEP FROWNING LIKE THAT, AND YOU'LL MAKE ME SAD AS WELL.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE FINE.
depressed
BUT...
DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT.
COME OVER HERE! COME SIT DOWN!
I'M NO ALCOHOLIC! DON'T BE SILLY!

I WISH I WAS MARRIED TO YOU INSTEAD
YOU'RE TOO NICE TO ME, YOU KNOW
WHEN I FIND A NEW JOB I'LL HAVE TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU
REALLY?
IT'LL BE MY TURN TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU
I CAN'T GO BACK TO BEING THE MAN I USED TO BE...
IF YOU WERE MY WIFE I WOULDN'T HAVE A REASON TO COMPLAIN I SWEAR I'D BE MORE DEDICATED TO WORK AS WELL
SO I GUESS I MIGHT AS WELL TURN GAY
I'D WELCOME IT, CHIBA-SAN! YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME!
WHEN I'M ABLE TO FIND A DECENT JOB, WE'D BOTH LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER
YOU MEAN A LOT TO ME, CHIBA-SAN
I DON'T MIND
BUT ALL I EVER DO IS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR KINDNESS, DON'T I?

YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL...
I...
I WANT TO TOUCH YOU ALL OVER.
YOU'RE REALLY STUNNING, SHIMIZU. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WORKING AS AN ORDINARY SALARYMAN?
BUT I SWEAR I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE...
WHAT AM I DOING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS! I REALLY AM GAY!
TELL ME SHIMIZU
ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WITH EVERYONE AT WORK IN MY ABSENCE?
NO WAY. THEY'RE ALL BORING— WORK IS BORING
—NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE, CHIBA-SAN
YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THE EFFORT, MORON!
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN ME AND YOU CAN HOLD DOWN A JOB
IF YOU DON'T SUCCEED
CHIBA-SAN...
I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE!

SHIMIZU,
NOW... I WANT...
AAH...
AH!
AAH!
AH!
.....
I WANT TO ENTER YOU. MAY I?
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
UH.. UGH!
I'M HAVING TROUBLE BECAUSE OF THE ALCOHOL!
YOU'VE BEEN... AMAZING TONIGHT, SHIMIZU.
AAH!
CHIBA-SAN...
YOU'RE... SO GOOD TO ME
AH!
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT LEFT NOW
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT...
AAH!

OOH!
NGH!
OHH! OH!
MM...
YOU'RE ALL I'VE GOT...
.....

CREAK
ZZZ
OH!
THAT REMINDS ME
I'LL LEAVE BEHIND THE REMAINING CANS OF LOW-MALT BEER
I MUST GET HIM MILK NEXT TIME
HE'S ALREADY GOT RICE
WELL, I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN ON THE WEEKEND
AND BLOCK HER CALLS
THERE ALL DONE
I'LL FIND HIS WIFE'S PHONE NUMBER
NOW WHERE DID CHIBA-SAN PUT HIS PHONE?
SNEAK

PERHAPS HE'S BEEN DETAINED FOR SOME REASON
IF YOU AT LEAST TRY TO SPEAK TO HIM FOR ONCE.
HUMAN RESOURCES
BUT IT SEEMS AS IF HE WAS PLANNING TO LEAVE HIS JOB ALL ALONG.
HUMAN RESOURCES
BUT ISN'T HIS REAL PROBLEM LIVER DAMAGE FROM TOO MUCH ALCOHOL?
HE SENT IN A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE STATING HE WAS PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED,
BUT I NOTICED HE BEGAN DRINKING HEAVILY AFTER HIS WIFE LEFT HIM
I'D HAVE THE OCCASIONAL DRINK WITH HIM AFTER WORK WHEN WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER,
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC LIKE HIM
BY THE WAY, I ALSO INTEND TO RESIGN ONCE I GET MY NEXT BONUS. COULD YOU PLEASE FIND ME THAT BOOKLET ON OUR WORK ENTITLEMENTS?
I DO FEEL THAT HE NEEDS TO TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
YEAH SURE.
BUT IT'S A REAL SHAME HE QUIT HIS JOB
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?!
HANG ON! ARE YOU QUITTING TOO?
YOUR PHONE'S RINGING YOU BETTER ANSWER IT

I WONDER IF IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO GO IT ALONE AS A SOLE TRADER.
ANYWAY, I INITIALLY JOINED THIS FIRM...
...TO GAIN THE INDUSTRY KNOW-HOW AND EXPERIENCE I NEEDED.
YOU'VE STILL GOT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS JOB ALONG WITH THE REST OF US!
CUT IT OUT! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT ON YOUR OWN IN THIS INDUSTRY!
BUT HEY, I'VE BEEN MAKING PLANS TO START MY OWN BUSINESS FOR A WHILE
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HUH? YOU'RE NOT KEEN ON THAT LADY?!
NO NEED TO BE SHY!
COME ON, SHIMIZU! SING ALONG!
ACTUALLY, IT'S NICE TO KNOW
I GUESS YOU'RE THE TYPE OF GUY WHO'D RATHER FALL IN LOVE THAN HAVE A ONE-NIGHT STAND.
IT TOOK ME BY SURPRISE BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE ME THINK ANY LESS OF YOU!

I BOUGHT HIM EGGS AND MILK
TONIGHT I'LL CLEAN HIS BATHROOM AND TOILET
RIP RIP
IS THIS A LETTER FROM HIS WIFE?
HMPH!
scrunch
Dear Papa, Please give up alcohol. Love, Miki
HM?
rip
WHAT'S THIS? A PAMPHLET ON ALCOHOL ABUSE?
HMPH!
flutter

CHIBA-SAN?
ARE YOU HOME?
ARE YOU ASLEEP, CHIBA-SAN?
CLICK
YEAH?

I MEAN, LOOK AT ME.
ALL ALONG I'VE BEEN A TOP SALES EXECUTIVE.
BUT THE OLD GUY I SPOKE TO...
...SEEMED REALLY KEEN TO HIRE ME. I COULD HEAR IT IN HIS VOICE.
CHIBA-SAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS TIME YOU'RE DRUNK!
NO WAY... YOU THINK I'D GET DRUNK ON THIS STUFF?
WHAT'S THIS?
A REJECTION LETTER?
POOR LITTLE MIKI...
OH, YEAH
Clang
roll
IT'S NO GOOD FOR HER TO HAVE A DAD WHO'S OUT OF WORK.
I'M TOO LATE TO MAKE IT TO MIKI'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL...
DAMMIT!
I KNOW JUST HOW GREAT YOU ARE, CHIBA-SAN
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT HE LACKS THE JUDGMENT TO RECOGNIZE YOUR ABILITY
HEY!
CRASH
CHIBA-SAN, IT'S EVENING ALREADY! BESIDES YOU CAN'T GO OUT LOOKING LIKE THAT...
Wobble Wobble
WAIT, I'LL GO SEE HER NOW
IF I DON'T TURN UP, MY WIFE MIGHT BITCH ABOUT ME TO THE OTHER PARENTS..

SHUT UP! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WAY I LOOK?!
ARE YOU ASHAMED TO BE SEEN WITH ME IN PUBLIC?
shove
WHERE DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHIT!
OWW!
squirm
squirm

NO, NOT AT ALL.

SHIMIZU...
squeeze
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU
CHIBA-SAN, YOU'RE STILL A GOOD-LOOKING GUY
THAT'S WHY I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

huff
huff
huff
I'M COMING!
I...
AH!
creak
creak
creak
creak
AAH...
AH....
AH...
AAH.
NGH!
UGH!
MM...
AAH...
slump

huff
huff
huff
CHIBA-SAN,
I WAS WONDERING ...
HM?
WHY DON'T YOU MOVE IN WITH ME?
HUH?
YOU MUST BE LONELY LIVING HERE ON YOUR OWN.
IF YOU WERE STAYING WITH ME, I'D COOK FOR YOU EVERY DAY.
YOU'D BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON FINDING A NEW JOB WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT YOUR FINANCES
SO HOW ABOUT IT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO?
NAH, IT'S NOT THAT...
BUT I RELY ON YOU TOO MUCH ALREADY.
IF I MOVE IN WITH YOU...
I'LL BE EVEN MORE OF A BURDEN
SHIT...
lick
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME ALCOHOL?
NAH, MY MOUTH JUST FEELS DRY...
YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE TALKING, HUH?
A BEER WOULD BE NICE, RIGHT? HANG ON A SEC
HERE YOU GO! YOU CAN HAVE THE REST OF MINE!
.....

huff huff
ゴクゴク
GWG GWG
TRA LA LA LA...
G-GUH
G'NIGHT.
GONNA SLEEP NOW...

CHIBA-SAN
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE HAVE YOU
YOU'RE MINE
YOU'RE ALL MINE
TRA LALA LA...

NOW THEN...
AS LONG AS I'M HERE, I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF CHIBA-SAN WHEN HE WAKES UP
I'LL NEED TO BUY A BIGGER BED...
...WHEN CHIBA-SAN MOVES IN WITH ME...
I'LL GO TO A NEAREY DEPARTMENT STORE ON MY WAY BACK
NOW WHERE DID I PUT MY CREDIT CARD?
HM?
rustle
I FORGOT TO THROW IT OUT
rip
RUSTLE
Dear Papa, Please give up alcohol. Love, Miki

kachik
カチャ
Dear Papa,
Please give
up divorce.
Love,
Maki
I'M LOOKING FOR MY HUSBAND...
OH! WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SHIMIZU, CHIRA-SAN'S BOYFRIEND
Clatter
UH SHIMIZU?
WHO'S AT THE DOOR?
WHO'S THERE?
creak creak
MAYUMI? WHAT ARE YOU...
.....

GOOD GRIEF!
HOW CAN YOU EXPECT TO CONTINUE LIVING LIKE THIS?!
WERE YOU LYING WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE LOOKING FOR WORK?
HOW COULD YOU KEEP ME IN THE DARK ALL THIS TIME? I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU AT ALL!
YOU NEVER ANSWER MY PHONE CALLS! I WAS SO WORRIED I CAME TO SEE HOW YOU WERE!
YOU CALLED? I HAD NO IDEA BUT I DID CALL YOU BECAUSE I WANTED TO SEE MIKI.
BUT YOU ALWAYS RING LATE AT NIGHT! THAT'S WHY I TRY TO CALL YOU BACK DURING THE DAY!
EVEN SO I'D NEVER ALLOW YOU TO SEE MIKI WHEN YOU STINK OF STALE BEER FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
THOSE CANS ARE JUST LAST NIGHT'S LEFTOVERS
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT! PLEASE YOU MUST SEEK HELP FOR YOUR DRINKING PROBLEM!
YOU DIDN'T READ THE PAMPHLET I SENT YOU, DID YOU?
WHAT PAMPHLET?
IT'S FROM A DRUG REHAB CLINIC
Dear Papa, Please give up alcohol. Love, Miki
BUT I'M NO ALCOHOLIC, YOU MORON! IF I GO INTO A PLACE LIKE THAT, I WON'T SEE MIKI AGAIN!

Dear Papa,
Please give up alcohol
Love,
MIKI
FIRST SEEK HELP FOR YOUR DRINKING PROBLEM!
MAYUMI, PLEASE!
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO SEE MY DAUGHTER AGAIN, BUT—
ARE YOU TRYING TO PREVENT ME FROM SEEING HER?
DON'T YOU DARE SHUT ME OUT!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
YOU MUST SEEK HELP! I'M BEGGING YOU...
NO NEED TO HAVE A SHOUTING MATCH
CALM DOWN YOU TWO
TAKE IT EASY

LET'S ALL HAVE A DRINK AND THEN WE'LL SIT DOWN AND CHAT.
DON'T SAY SUCH A THING!
HOW DARE YOU OFFER HIM MORE ALCOHOL TO DRINK?!

HE'LL BE FINE CHIBA-SAN HASN'T GOT A SERIOUS ALCOHOL PROBLEM
ALL ALONG HE'S BEEN A TOP SALES EXECUTIVE
HE'S A GREAT GUY WITH A STRONG SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE INSPIRED EVERYONE AT WORK AND WE ALL HAD FAITH IN HIM
HE ONLY DRINKS A BIT TOO MUCH BECAUSE HE COMES HOME TO AN EMPTY HOUSE EACH NIGHT.
BUT I'M SURE...

HE'LL LISTEN TO YOU AND QUIT DRINKING FROM NOW ON
YOU'LL LISTEN TO YOUR WIFE, WON'T YOU CHIBA-SAN?
NO!

huff
huff
GLUG
ゴク
ゴク
GLUG
snatch
バリ
ガタン
clatter
バタン
CRASH
OH NO!

GEEZ, CHIBA-SAN!
YOUR DRINKING PROBLEM HAS REALLY MESSED YOU UP
THIS TIME YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL

BUT YEAH, IN THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY YOU'RE IN AWFUL SHAPE
I EVEN HAD THE URGE TO TAKE YOU IN AND LOOK AFTER YOU
BUT WHEN YOU WERE LOW AND DEPRESSED, I FOUND YOU ODDLY APPEALING
DURING OFFICE HOURS YOU WERE A FIRM BOSS,
BESIDES, WATCHING YOUR LIFE FALL APART LIKE A PLOTLINE FROM A SOAP OPERA HAS TURNED ME RIGHT OFF.

NOW YOU'RE WASHED UP, A COMPLETE FAILURE.
YOU LACK POTENTIAL BECAUSE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SHOW-OFF.
YOUR IDEAS AND ANALYSIS ARE AVERAGE AT BEST.
DO WHAT SHE SAYS AND CHECK YOURSELF INTO A REHAB CLINIC
TO TOP IT ALL OFF, YOU'RE AN ALCOHOLIC.
YOU'RE NOT THE BIG HOTSHOT YOU THINK YOU ARE

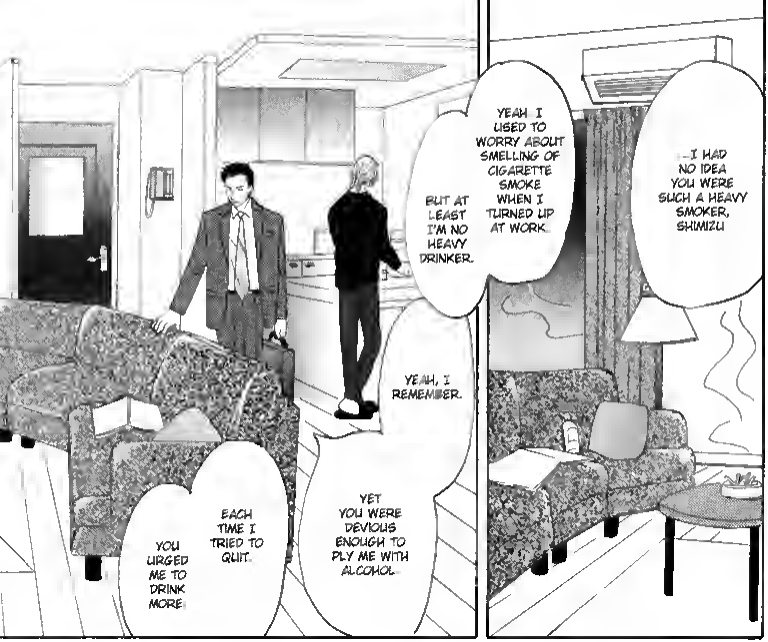
SLAM
バタン
I BETTER GO LISTENING TO PARENTS MOAN ABOUT FAMILY LIFE BORES ME STIFF
GO BACK TO YOUR WIFE
YOU'RE A WEAK AND USELESS WRECK

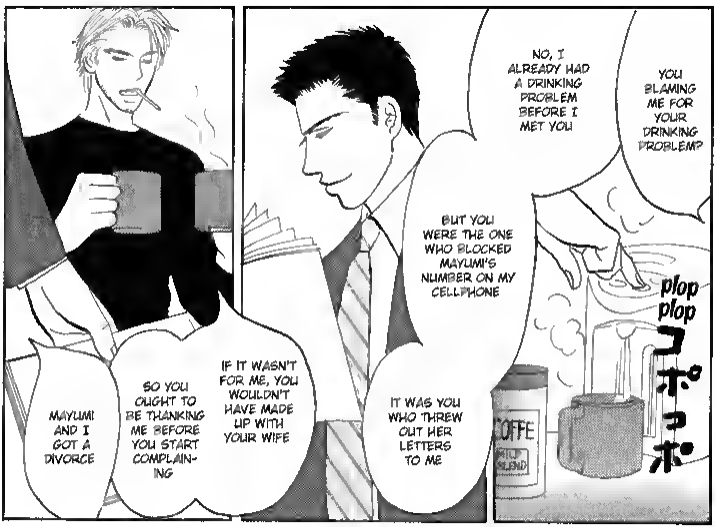
SO YOU'RE RESIGNING FOR REAL?
WELL, YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO START A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN.
HERE'S ALL MY PAPERWORK PLEASE CHECK IT OVER FOR ME.
YEAH SURE.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT CHIBA...
...I HEARD THAT HE'S DOING WELL IN REHAB
HE'S CONTACTED US ABOUT COMING BACK TO WORK PART-TIME OR ON A CONTRACT BASIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE
HUMAN RESOURCES
tap tap
OUR FIRM ISN'T KNOWN FOR GIVING PEOPLE A SECOND CHANCE...
...BUT SINCE HE WAS SO POPULAR WITH EVERYONE THEY MAY MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR HIM.
ANYWAY...I'M SURE HE'LL EVENTUALLY GET OVER HIS DRINKING PROBLEM.
IT'S ALL OKAY? THEN I'LL BE OFF.
HEY!

ding
dong
ding
dong

HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A WHILE
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

BUT...
THAT'S GREAT!
MY INCOME HAS TRIPLED YOU TRAINED ME WELL
clack
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MAKING GOOD MONEY AS A SOLE TRADER
YEAH, LAST MONTH
DID YOU GO BACK TO WORK FOR THE FIRM?
OH YEAH...


...I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SUCH A HEAVY SMOKER, SHIMIZU
YEAH, I USED TO WORRY ABOUT SMELLING OF CIGARETTE SMOKE WHEN I TURNED UP AT WORK.
BUT AT LEAST I'M NO HEAVY DRINKER.
YEAH, I REMEMBER.
YET YOU WERE DEVIOUS ENOUGH TO PLY ME WITH ALCOHOL.
EACH TIME I TRIED TO QUIT,
YOU URGED ME TO DRINK MORE.


YOU BLAMING ME FOR YOUR DRINKING PROBLEM?
NO, I ALREADY HAD A DRINKING PROBLEM BEFORE I MET YOU
BUT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BLOCKED MAYUMI'S NUMBER ON MY CELLPHONE
plop plop
コポコポ
IT WAS YOU WHO THREW OUT HER LETTERS TO ME
IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MADE UP WITH YOUR WIFE
SO YOU OUGHT TO BE THANKING ME BEFORE YOU START COMPLAINING
MAYUMI AND I GOT A DIVORCE

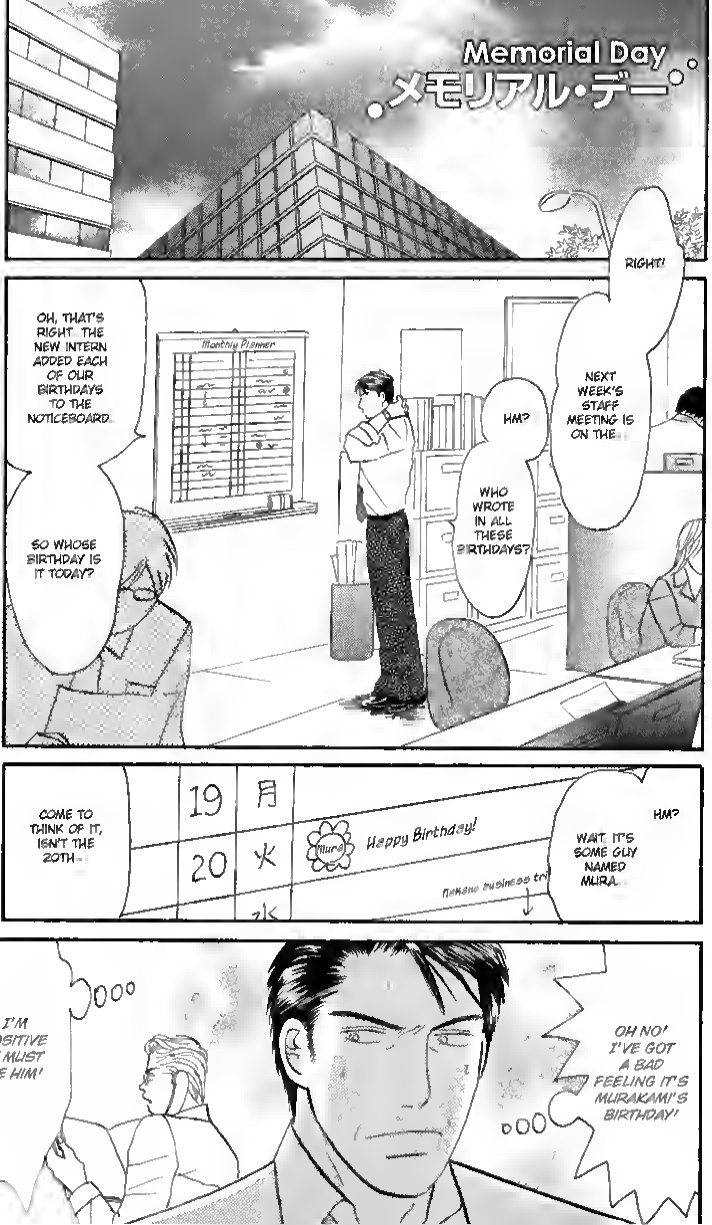
MAYUMI'S REMARRIED A FORMER BOYFRIEND HE'S A NICE GUY
MIKI'S MORE ATTACHED TO HIM THAN SHE IS TO ME
BUT MAYUMI TOLD ME I CAN SEE MIKI WHENEVER I LIKE
I THINK I'LL KEEP OUT OF THEIR WAY FOR NOW
YET I FEEL SO HAPPY JUST KNOWING I CAN SEE MY DAUGHTER ANYTIME I WANT
IT'S AS IF I'VE FOUND THE MOTIVATION I NEED TO KEEP ON LIVING
BUT I GUESS...
...YOU MUST BE DISGUSTED AT HOW WELL I'M DOING, HUH?
YOU PREFERRED ME WEAK AND USELESS...
...BECAUSE YOU LIKED WATCHING ME DROWN MYSELF IN ALCOHOL
HMPH! NOT ANYMORE.
SO I CAME UP...
...WITH THIS GREAT IDEA
I'LL GO BACK TO MY OLD HABITS...

NO!
AND TURN BACK INTO THE SAME GUY YOU LOVED BEFORE
DON'T DRINK THAT!
DON'T EVER DRINK AGAIN, YOU FOOL!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

WHY NOT? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED ME BETTER WHEN I WAS DRUNK.
WHY RUIN IT ALL NOW?
YOU'VE EVEN GONE BACK TO WORK FOR THE FIRM!
YOU'VE GONE TO SO MUCH EFFORT TO GIVE UP ALCOHOL! YOU'RE NOW ALLOWED TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER!
THAT'S UNTRUE! WHAT I REALLY LOVED...
...WAS SEEING YOU SMILING AND HAPPY!
I REMEMBER HOW YOU USED TO SMILE AT ME, EVEN WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND AND BARKING OUT ORDERS!
I COULDN'T HELP LOVING HOW ENERGETIC AND ANIMATED YOU WERE!
BUT I KNEW YOU'D NEVER BE MINE OTHERWISE,
SO THAT'S WHY I KEPT DRAGGING YOU DOWN.
AND MAKING YOUR LIFE MISERABLE!
BUT SHIMIZU

...YOU THREW OUT THE PAMPHLET FROM THE REHAB CLINIC...
...YET YOU DIDN'T THROW OUT...
MIKI'S LETTER TO ME, DID YOU?
YOU LEFT IT ON THE TABLE FOR ME BECAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU KNEW IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO
I KNOW THAT'S THE REAL YOU... YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO GOOD TO ME
SHIMIZU,
HOW CAN YOU REALLY...
...WANT A MEAN AND SELFISH GUY LIKE ME?
YOU KNOW, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ME...
I AM WEAK AND USELESS
IF THERE'S NO ONE IN MY LIFE WHO LOVES ME
IF THERE'S NO ONE THERE TO HOLD MY HAND AND WALK BY MY SIDE, THEN I'M DOOMED...
I'LL GO WHEREVER YOU TAKE ME...
...SO TELL ME, SHIMIZU, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?

I WANT TO SEE YOU WORKING.... I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY...
NEVER EVER...
...TOUCH ALCOHOL AGAIN.
VERY WELL,
THAT'LL BE MY GOAL
I PROMISE I'LL DO THAT FOR YOU.
.end.

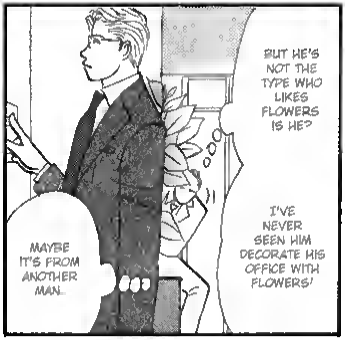

Memorial Day
メモリアル・デー
RIGHT!
NEXT WEEK'S STAFF MEETING IS ON THE...
HM?
WHO WROTE IN ALL THESE BIRTHDAYS?
Monthly Planner
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. THE NEW INTERN ADDED EACH OF OUR BIRTHDAYS TO THE NOTICEBOARD.
SO WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT TODAY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, ISN'T THE 20TH...
19 月
20 火
Murai
Happy Birthday!
Nekane business trip
HM?
WAIT. IT'S SOME GUY NAMED MURA...
I'M POSITIVE IT MUST BE HIM!
OH NO! I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING IT'S MURAKAMI'S BIRTHDAY!

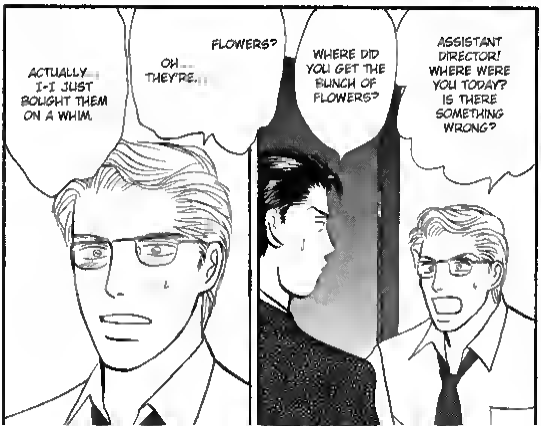
I THOUGHT HE WAS CASTING WISTFUL LOOKS MY WAY ALL MORNING!
I WAS SURE HE WAS KEEN ON ME SO I EVEN SHAVED DURING LUNCH
SHOULD I INVITE HIM OUT FOR DINNER EVEN THOUGH IT'S A WEEK-NIGHT?
HANG ON! I'VE GOT NOTHING FOR HIM!
I DIDN'T BUY HIM A PRESENT!
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO LEAVE EARLY TODAY!
HE WAS MUTTERING SOMETHING ABOUT BEING TIRED...
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR?
BUT WHAT DO I GET HIM?
IF I WAS BUYING A GIFT FOR A WOMAN, A HANDBAG OR RING WOULD MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.
BUT FOR A MAN
HOW ABOUT AN ELEGANT WATCH?
WAIT A SEC! HE MUST HAVE MILLIONS OF WATCHES ALREADY!
I'M HIS BOSS AND I SWEAR I OWN THIRTY THOUSAND OR SO!
AND NEXT MONTH'S CAR INSPEC-TION
PLUS THERE'S THE LOAN ON MY FLAT TO REPAY
trudge
trudge
MEN'S H
HOW ABOUT A STYLISH FRAGRANCE?
I'M SURE THAT'LL ACCENTUATE HIS NATURAL PHEROMONES
NO, NOT THAT! HE'LL BE APPROACHED BY OTHER MEN!
I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO NEAR HIM!
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN 'SCENT OF STINKBUG' AS A GIFT, SIR?
ERR... NO
OF COURSE NOT!
I'd never buy such a vile product!

SURE I'M GAY, BUT I'D NEVER WEAR SOMETHING SO SKIMPY!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS? A T-BACK THONG FOR MEN!
HOW GROSS!
UNDERWEAR
IS HE THE BOXER SHORTS TYPE?
MAYBE IT'S BEST TO GET SOMETHING PRACTICAL LIKE UNDER-WEAR.
AS HIS BOSS, I'D HAVE TO GENTLY BUT FIRMLY REPRIMAND HIM!
I'LL BUY IT...
CUSTO
WHAT WILL SHE THINK WHEN I TELL HER IT'S A PRESENT?
BUT THE SHOP ASSISTANT WILL THINK I'M BUYING IT FOR MYSELF!
IF MURAKAMI WERE TO WEAR SOMETHING THAT INDECENT, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D HANDLE IT!
BUT...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
UMM... ERR... IS THERE AN EXTRA FEE? I-I WORK IN FASHION, AND I NEED THIS FOR A STRATEGY MEETING...
WOULD YOU LIKE A RECEIPT FOR TAX PURPOSES?

SHOULD I BE CONGRATULATING MYSELF FOR NOT ASKING HIM OUT?
IT'S A BUNCH OF FLOWERS!
WHAT'S HE GOT IN HIS HAND? HM?
clack clack
I FORGOT TO INVITE HIM OUT TO DINNER IN THE FIRST PLACE!
HEY, THAT'S MURAKAMI!

I'VE GOT A BAD HABIT OF BEING JEALOUS AND LEAPING TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION!
I'LL TRY TO CHECK THE FACTS IN A DISCREET AND NONCHALANT MANNER
ARE THEY BOTH HAVING AN INTIMATE PARTY FOR TWO?
NO, HANG ON! I MUST STAY CALM!


BUT HE'S NOT THE TYPE WHO LIKES FLOWERS IS HE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM DECORATE HIS OFFICE WITH FLOWERS!
MAYBE IT'S FROM ANOTHER MAN...


ACTUALLY... I-I JUST BOUGHT THEM ON A WHIM.
OH... THEY'RE...
FLOWERS?
WHERE DID YOU GET THE BUNCH OF FLOWERS?
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR! WHERE WERE YOU TODAY? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

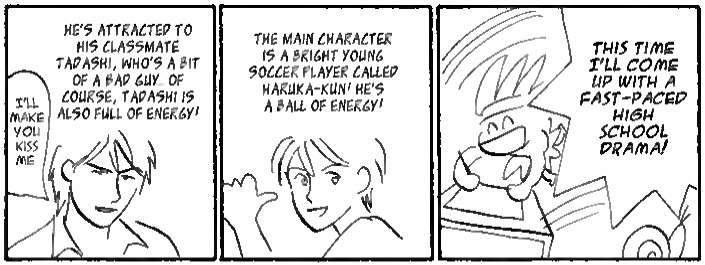
HUH?
WHO COULD THAT BE? I JUST CAME HOME SO WHAT'S THE RUSH?
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
ding dong

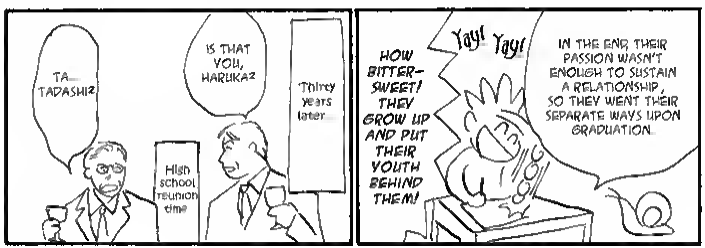
IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME...
ISN'T TODAY THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY WIFE'S DEATH?
I'VE BEEN ON SO MANY BUSINESS TRIPS LATELY THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT.
TO BE HONEST, CHRYSANTHEMUMS WOULD'VE BEEN MORE FITTING, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT I THINK A WOMAN WOULD STILL APPRECIATE THIS BOUQUET TOO
UH... IS YOUR BIRTHDAY ON THE 20TH?
YES, IT'S ON THE 20TH OF NEXT MONTH! SO YOU REMEMBERED?
O-OF COURSE I DID!
BY THE WAY, WHICH GUY IN THE OFFICE HAD A BIRTHDAY TODAY?
OH, THAT WAS MURA, THE CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE WHERE TANAKA WAS BORN! IT SEEMS TANAKA WAS BORED SO HE WROTE IT UP ON THE BOARD AS A JOKE!
IT'S GETTING LATE NOW YOU'RE MORE THAN WELCOME TO STAY THE NIGHT
I CAN SLEEP ON THE SOFA
VSSH
clink clink
NO, IT'S FINE I'LL TAKE THE SOFA

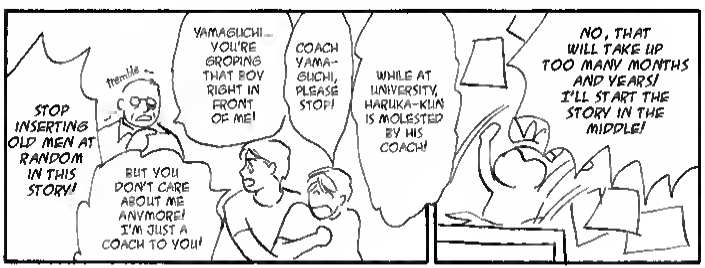
IT'S NOT THAT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT YOU...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER DID TRY TO REMEMBER YOUR BIRTHDAY OR OUR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WHILE YOU WERE ALIVE.
THERE ARE STILL TIMES THAT I'M SO OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF THAT I FEEL HOLLOW AND EMPTY INSIDE.
...IN LIFE AND DEATH
...FOR YOU'VE BECOME SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF ME.
IF THAT'S ALL HE MEANS TO ME, THEN WHY AM I AS CLUMSY AS A LOVESTRUCK TEENAGER AROUND HIM?
AM I FINDING SOLACE IN MURAKAMI'S COMPANY? DOES HE FILL THAT EMPTINESS INSIDE ME?
ANYWAY, TONIGHT YOU'RE HERE WITH ME. I'LL GO TO SLEEP AND CLING TIGHT TO THIS MOMENT OF HAPPINESS.
CONK
BUT I'M SURE MY WIFE IS GENEROUS ENOUGH TO FORGIVE ME IF I QUIETLY SLIP THE THONG ON HIM WHILE HE SLEEPS.

.end.

Manga Lessons
ping
I GET THE IMPRESSION YOU DRAW NOTHING BUT OLD MEN LATELY!
GRR!
According to the lymph milk caterpillar


I'LL MAKE YOU KISS ME
HE'S ATTRACTED TO HIS CLASSMATE TADASHI, WHO'S A BIT OF A BAD GUY. OF COURSE, TADASHI IS ALSO FULL OF ENERGY!
THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A BRIGHT YOUNG SOCCER PLAYER CALLED HARUKA-KUN! HE'S A BALL OF ENERGY!
THIS TIME I'LL COME UP WITH A FAST-PACED HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA!


TA... TADASHI?
IS THAT YOU, HARUKA?
High school reunion time
Thirty years later...
HOW BITTER-SWEET! THEY GROW UP AND PUT THEIR YOUTH BEHIND THEM!
Yay! Yay!
IN THE END, THEIR PASSION WASN'T ENOUGH TO SUSTAIN A RELATIONSHIP, SO THEY WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS UPON GRADUATION.


STOP INSERTING OLD MEN AT RANDOM IN THIS STORY!
Hmmm...
BUT YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYMORE! I'M JUST A COACH TO YOU!
YAMAGUCHI... YOU'RE GROPING THAT BOY RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
COACH YAMA-GUCHI, PLEASE STOP!
WHILE AT UNIVERSITY, HARUKA-KUN IS MOLESTED BY HIS COACH!
NO, THAT WILL TAKE UP TOO MANY MONTHS AND YEARS! I'LL START THE STORY IN THE MIDDLE!

BAMBOO COMICS

REIJIN selection

恋をしましょう

◆

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